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(54) Title: METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR TREATING AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS

#### METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR TREATING AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS

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#### Field of the Invention

The invention relates to the fields of protein kinases, autoimmune disease, autoimmune gets, and protein structure.

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#### **Background of the Invention**

The idea that common pathogenic events exist at least for some autoimmune disorders is suggested by the significant number of patients displaying more than one autoimmune disease, and also by the strong and common linkage that some of these diseases show to specific MHC haplotypes. The experimental observation that the autoantigen is the leading moiety in autoimmunity and that a limited number of self-components are autoantigenic, suggests that these self-components share biological features which are relevant for self/non-self recognition by the immune system. One possibility is that triggering events by altering these features result in abnormal proteolysis. In certain individuals expressing a particular MHC specificity, the resulting abnormal peptides could be recognized by non-tolerized T cells and trigger an immune response

Type IV collagen (also referred to herein as collagen IV) networks scaffold the basement membranes, the laminar extracellular matrix structures often found between the cells and connective tissue. Six different type IV collagen α chains (α1-α6) exist, and three chains associate through the C terminal non-collagenous (NC1) domain to form a collagen IV molecule. In basement membranes, two type IV collagen molecules interact through their NC1 regions, yielding a hexameric globular quaternary structure ("hexamer"). Six disulfide bonds stabilize the native structure of each individual NC1 domain, and bonds generated by disulfide exchange between collagen IV molecules stabilize the "hexamer". Bacterial collagenase digestion of basement membrane degrades the collagenous portion of collagen IV and releases the "hexamer". Upon dissociation, this globular structure yields the individual NC1 domains as single polypeptides ("monomer") or disulfide-related oligomers (dimers and higher molecular weight aggregates).

Recent data indicates that the information required to form a collagen IV "hexamer" resides in the covalent structure of the "monomer" as the individual NC1 domains select their partners and form "hexamers" without the assistance of other cellular factors. However the structural features mediating "monomer" association and the mechanism regulating the intermolecular disulfide bridging is presently unknown.

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The chain composition of the collagen IV network varies among basement membranes and different collagen IV networks have been shown to exist. In the kidney, the glomerular basement membrane (GBM) results from assembly of two connected but independent collagen IV networks, one containing  $\alpha 1$ - $\alpha 2$ (IV) and the other made of  $\alpha 3$ - $\alpha 4$ - $\alpha 5$ (IV). GBM plays a major role in plasma ultrafiltration since genetic and acquired diseases altering its collagen IV network impair renal function. In Alport syndrome, mutations in any of the  $\alpha 3$ ,  $\alpha 4$  or  $\alpha 5$ (IV) genes result in disruption of the corresponding collagen IV network and nephritis, whereas in Goodpasture (GP) disease an autoimmune response against the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 (also referred to as the GP antigen) cause linear deposits of autoantibodies along alveolar and glomerular BM, causing a rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis and often lung hemorrhage.

In GP disease, immunologically privileged epitopes buried in the GBM hexamer are exposed by an unknown pathogenic mechanism that engages the immune system in the deleterious production of antibodies. The human condition of this disorder and the exclusive involvement of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain among six highly related domains, supported early comparative studies to identify biological features relevant in autoimmune pathogenesis. Accordingly, the human  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain undergoes unique phosphorylation at Ser<sup>9</sup> by type A protein kinases (cPKA) and structural diversification by alternative exon splicing generating multiple related products (GPAIII, GPAIII/IV/V and GPAV).

The data presented herein indicate that the human  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain exists as multiple phosphorylation-dependent conformational isoforms (conformers) that are stabilized by disulfide bonds. Furthermore our data indicate that phosphorylation of Ser<sup>9</sup> induces conformational diversification of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain, whereas the alternative products contain divergent C terminal ends that specifically induce cPKA phosphorylation of Ser<sup>9</sup> in the primary product, suggesting that in humans the levels of expression of alternatively spliced products by regulating Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation control the conformational diversification process of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain. All of the above suggests that Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation, alternative exon splicing and pathogenesis are related phenomenon.

The data presented herein further identify GPBP and GPBPΔ26 as two alternatively spliced isoforms of a novel non-conventional protein kinase that binds to the N terminal region of the human α3(IV)NC1 and phosphorylates Ser<sup>9</sup>. GPBP is a more active variant whose expression is highly restricted to histological structures targeted by common autoimmune responses including human alveolar and glomerular basement membranes. Each GPBP isoform likely represents a different strategy to perform the same function as we have found that for a particular tissue individuals expressing higher levels of GPBP express very little GPBPΔ26 and vice versa. An augmented expression of GPBP with respect to GPBPΔ26 has been associated with several autoimmune conditions including GP patients, cutaneous lupus erythematosus, pemphigus, pemphigoid and lichen planus, suggesting that GPBP expression and autoimmune pathogenesis are related processes. Our data herein (Example 5) further indicate that phosphorylation activates the α3(IV)NC1 domain for aggregation, a process that is catalyzed at least in part by GPBP and which comprises conformational isomerization reactions and disulfide-bond exchange.

Furthermore we show here that in GP kidneys, a relative increased in the level of expression of GP $\Delta$ III and GPBP co-exist with assembled "aberrant" conformers of the  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 domain that conduct the autoimmune response, suggesting this human disease represents the legitimate response of the immune system against misfolded autoantigen which results from a coordinated increase in the expression of GPBP and GP $\Delta$ III.

Finally, we disclose that myelin basic protein (MBP), a known human autoantigen implicated in multiple sclerosis, contains a structurally related site (Ser<sup>8</sup>) for cPKA and GPBP whose phosphorylation regulates conformation and is under the control of a related alternative splicing mechanism when cPKA is phosphorylating enzyme, suggesting that phosphorylation-dependent conformation is the biological condition that renders self-components potentially immunogenic.

Based on all of the above, there exists a need in the art for methods and reagents to identify drug candidates to modify GPBP activity to treat autoimmune disorders.

#### Summary of the Invention

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The present invention provides methods and reagents for identifying compounds to treat autoimmune diseases. In one aspect, the present invention provides methods for identifying compounds to treat an autoimmune condition, comprising identifying compounds

that (a) reduce phosphorylation of a first target protein selected from the group consisting of GPBP, an  $\alpha$ 3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:64 and (b) reduce formation of conformational isomers of a second target protein selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ 3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide and myelin basic protein, wherein such compounds are candidates for treating an autoimmune condition. In a preferred embodiment, phosphorylation assays are conducted in vitro. In a further preferred embodiment, conformer formation assays are conducted in cultured cells. In another preferred embodiment, the method further comprises identifying compounds that reduce oligomerization of the second target protein. In a further embodiment, the autoimmune condition is selected from the group consisting of Goodpasture Syndrome, multiple sclerosis, systemic and cutaneous lupus erythematosus, pemphigus, pemphigoid and lichen planus.

In another aspect, the invention provides isolated type IV collagen a 3NC1 domain conformational isomers, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has an amino acid sequence identical to that of wild type a 3 type IV collagen NC1 domain, wherein the conformational isomer is stabilized by disulfide bonds, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has a molecular weight in a non-reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel selected from the group consisting of 22 kD, 23, kD, 25 kD, 27 kD, and 28 kD, and wherein the conformational isomer has a molecular weight of 29 kDa in a reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel.

In a further embodiment, the invention provides isolated type IV collagen a NC1 domain nucleic acids encoding a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:66 and SEQ ID NO:68, as well as the corresponding isolated polypeptides.

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#### **Brief Description of the Figures**

Figure 1. Nucleotide and derived amino acid sequences of n4'. The denoted structural features are from 5' to 3'end: the cDNA present in the original clone (HeLa1) (dotted box), which contains the PH homology domain (in black) and the Ser-Xaa-Yaa repeat (in gray); the heptad repeat of the predictable coiled-coil structure (open box) containing the bipartite nuclear localization signal (in gray); and a serine-rich domain (filled gray box). The asterisks denote the positions of in frame stop codons.

Figure 2. Distribution of GPBP in human tissues (Northern blot) and in eukaryotic species (Southern blot). A random primed  $^{32}$ P-labeled HeLa1 cDNA probe was used to identify homologous messages in a Northern blot of poly( $A^+$ )RNA from the indicated human tissues (panel A) or in a Southern blot of genomic DNA from the indicated eukaryotic species (panel B). Northern hybridization was performed under highly stringent conditions to detect perfect matching messages and at low stringency in the Southern to allow the detection of messages with mismatches. No appreciable differences in the quality and amount of each individual poly A+ RNA was observed by denaturing gel electrophoresis or when probing a representative blot from the same lot with human  $\beta$ -actin cDNA. The numbers denote the position and the sizes in kb of the RNA or DNA markers used.

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Figure 3. Experimental determination of the translation start site. In (A), the two cDNAs present in pc-n4' and pc-FLAG-n4' plasmids used for transient expression are represented as black lines. The relative position of the corresponding predicted (n4') or engineered (FLAG-n4') translation start site is indicated (Met). In (B), the extracts from control (-), pc-n4'(n4') or pc-FLAG-n4' (FLAG-n4') transfected 293 cells were subjected to SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions in 10% gels. The separated proteins were transferred to a PVDF membrane (Millipore) and blotted with the indicated antibodies. The numbers and bars indicate the molecular mass in kDa and the relative positions of the molecular weight markers, respectively.

Figure 4. Characterization of rGPBP from yeast and 293 cells. In (A), 1 µg (lane 1) or 100 ng (lanes 2 and 3) of yeast rGPBP were analyzed by reducing SDS-PAGE in a 10% gel. The separated proteins were stained with Coomassie blue (lane 1) or transferred and blotted with anti-FLAG antibodies (lane 2) or Mab14, a monoclonal antibody against GPBP (lane 3). In (B), the cell extracts from GPBP-expressing yeast were analyzed as in A and blotted with anti-FLAG (lane 1), anti-PSer (lane 2), anti-PThr (lane 3) or anti-PTyr (lane 4) monoclonal antibodies respectively. In (C), 200 ng of either yeast rGPBP (lane 1), dephosphorylated yeast rGPBP (lane 2) or 293 cells-derived rGPBP (lane 3) were analyzed as in B with the indicated antibodies. In (D), similar amounts of H<sub>3</sub><sup>32</sup>PO<sub>4</sub>-labeled non-transfected (lanes 1), stable pc-n4' transfected (lanes 2) or transient pc-FLAG-n4' expressing (lanes 3) 293 cells were lysed, precipitated with the indicated antibodies and analyzed by SDS-PAGE and autoradiography. The molecular weight markers are represented with numbers and bars as in Figure 3. The arrows indicate the position of the rGPBP.

Phosphorylates the N-terminal region of the human GP antigen. To assess phosphorylation, approximately 200 ng of yeast rGPBP was incubated with [γ]<sup>32</sup>P-ATP in the absence (A and B) or presence of GP antigen-derived material (C). In (A), the mixture was subjected to reducing SDS-PAGE (10% gel) and autoradiographed. In (B), the mixture was subjected to <sup>32</sup>P-phosphoamino acid analysis by two-dimensional thin-layer chromatography. The dotted circles indicate the position of ninhydrin stained phosphoamino acids. In (C), the phosphorylation mixtures of the indicated GP-derived material were analyzed by SDS-PAGE (15% gel) and autoradiography (GPpep1 and GPpep1Ala<sup>9</sup>) or immunoprecipitated with Mab 17, a monoclonal antibody that specifically recognize GP antigen from human and bovine origin, and analyzed by SDS-PAGE (12.5%) and autoradiography (rGP, GP). The relative positions of rGPBP (A), rGP antigen and the native human and bovine GP antigens (C) are indicated by arrows. The numbers and bars refer to molecular weight markers as in previous Figures.

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Figure 6. In-blot renaturation of the serine/threonine kinase present in rGPBP. Five micrograms of rGPBP from yeast were in-blot renatured. The recombinant material was specifically identified by anti-FLAG antibodies (lane 1) and the *in situ* <sup>32</sup>P-incorporation detected by autoradiography (lane 2). The numbers and bars refer to molecular weight markers as in previous Figures. The arrow indicates the position of the 89 kDa rGPBP polypeptide.

Figure 7. Immunological localization of GPBP in human tissues. Rabbit serum against the N-terminal region of GPBP (1:50) was used to localize GPBP in human tissues. The tissues shown are kidney (A) glomerulus (B), lung (C), alveolus (D), liver (E), brain (F), testis (G), adrenal gland (H), pancreas (I) and prostate (J). Similar results were obtained using anti-GPBP affinity-purified antibodies or a pool of culture medium from seven different GPBP-specific monoclonal antibodies (anti-GPBP Mabs 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 14). Rabbit pre-immune serum did not stain any tissue structure in parallel control studies. Magnification was 40X except in B and D where it was 100X.

Figure 8. GPBPΔ26 is a splicing variant of GPBP. (A) Total RNA from normal skeletal muscle was retrotranscribed using primer 53c and subsequently subjected to PCR with primers 11m-53c (lane 2) or 15m-62c (lane 4). Control amplifications of a plasmid containing GPBP cDNA using the same pairs of primers are shown in lanes 1 and 3. Numbers on the left and right refer to molecular weight in base pairs. The region missing in

the normal muscle transcript was identified and its nucleotide sequence (lower case) and deduced amino acid sequence (upper case) are shown in (B). A clone of genomic DNA comprising the cDNA region of interest was sequenced and its structure is drawn in (C), showing the location and relative sizes of the 78-bp exon spliced out in GPBPA26 (black box), adjacent exons (gray boxes), and introns (lines). The size of both intron and exons is given and the nucleotide sequence of intron-exon boundaries (SEQ ID NOs:55-60) is presented, with consensus for 5' and 3' splice sites shown in bold case.

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Figure 9. Differential expression of GPBP and GPBPΔ26. Fragments representing the 78-bp exon (GPBP) or flanking sequences common to both isoforms (GPBP/GPBPΔ26) were <sup>32</sup>P-labeled and used to hybridize human tissue and tumor cell line Northern blots (CLONTECH). The membranes were first hybridized with GPBP-specific probe, stripped and then reanalyzed with GPBP/GPBPΔ26 probe. Washing conditions were less stringent for GPBP-specific probe (0.1% SSPE, 37°C or 55°C) than for the GPBP/GPBPΔ26 (0.1% SSPE, 68°C) to increase GPBP and GPBPΔ26 signals respectively. No detectable signal was obtained for the GPBP probe when the washing program was at 68°C (not shown).

Figure 10. GPBPΔ26 displays lower phosphorylating activity than GPBP. (A) Recombinantly-expressed, affinity-purified GPBP (rGPBP) (lanes 1) or rGPBPΔ26 (lanes 2) were subjected to SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions and either Coomasie blue stained (2 μg per lane) or blotted (200ng per lane) with monoclonal antibodies recognizing the FLAG sequence (α-FLAG) or GPBP/GPBPΔ26 (Mab14). (B) 200 ng of rGPBP (lanes 1) or rGPBPΔ26 (lanes 2) were in vitro phosphorylated without substrate to assay auto-phosphorylation (left), or with 5 nmol GPpep1 to measure trans-phosphorylation activity (right). An arrowhead indicates the position of the peptide. (C) 3 μg of rGPBP (lane 1) or rGPBPΔ26 (lane 2) were in-blot renatured as described under Material and Methods. The numbers and bars indicate the molecular mass in kDa and the relative position of the molecular weight markers, respectively.

Figure 11. rGPBP and rGPBPΔ26 form very active high molecular weight aggregates. About 300 μg of rGPBP (A) or rGPBPΔ26 (B) were subjected to gel filtration HPLC as described under Material and Methods. Vertical arrowheads and numbers respectively indicate the elution profile and molecular mass (kDa) of the molecular weight standards used. Larger aggregates eluted in the void volume (I), and the bulk of the material present in the samples eluted in the fractionation range of the column as a second peak between the 669 and 158 kDa markers (II). Fifteen microliters of the indicated minute

fractions were subjected to SDS-PAGE and Coomasie blue staining. Five microliters of the same fractions were in vitro phosphorylated as described in Materials and Methods, and the reaction stopped by boiling in SDS sample buffer. The fractions were loaded onto SDS-PAGE, transferred to PVDF and autoradiographed for 1 or 2 hours using Kodak X-Omat films and blotted using anti-FLAG monoclonal antibodies (Sigma).

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Figure 12. Self-interaction of GPBP and GPBP $\Delta$ 26 assessed by a yeast two-hybrid system. (A) Cell transfected for the indicated combinations of plasmids were selected on leucine-tryptophan-deficient medium (-Trp, -Leu), and independent transformants restreaked onto histidine-deficient plates (-Trp, -Leu, -His) in the presence or absence of 1 mM 3-amino-triazole (3-AT), to assess interaction. The picture was taken 3 days after streaking. (B) The bars represent mean values in  $\beta$ -galactosidase arbitrary units of four independent  $\beta$ -galactosidase in-solution assays.

Figure 13. GPBP is expressed associated with endothelial and glomerular basement membranes. Paraffin embedded sections of human muscle (A) or renal cortex (B, C) were probed with GPBP-specific antibodies (A,B) or with Mab189, a monoclonal antibody specific for the human  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  (C). Frozen sections of human kidney (D-F) were probed with Mab17, a monoclonal antibody specific for the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain (D), GPBP-specific antibodies (E), or sera from a GP patient (F). Control sera (chicken pre-immune and human control) did not display tissue-binding in parallel studies (not shown).

Figure 14. GPBP is expressed in human but not in bovine and murine renal cortex. Cortex from human (A, D), bovine (B, E) or murine (C, F) kidney were paraffin embedded and probed with either GPBP-specific antibodies (A-C) or GPBP/GPBPΔ26-specific antibodies (D-F).

Figure 15. GPBP is highly expressed in several autoimmune conditions. Skeletal muscle total RNA from a control individual (lane 1) or from a GP patient (lane 2) was subjected to RT-PCR as in Fig.8, using the oligonucleotides 15m and 62c in the amplification program. Frozen (B-D) or paraffin embedded (E-G) human control skin (B, E) or skin affected by SLE (C, F) or lichen planus (D, G) were probed with GPBP-specific antibodies.

Figure 16. Phosphorylation of GP alternative splicing products by PKA. In left panel, equimolecular amounts of rGP (lanes 1), rGPΔV (lanes 2), rGPΔIII (lanes 3) or rGPΔIII/IV/V (lanes 4), equivalent to 500 ng of the GP were phosphorylated at the indicated ATP concentrations. One-fifth of the total phosphorylation reaction mixture was separated by gel electrophoresis and transferred to PVDF, autoradiographed (shown) and the proteins

blotted with M3/1, a specific monoclonal antibody recognizing all four species (shown) or using antibodies specific for each individual C-terminal region (not shown). Arrowheads indicate the position of each recombinant protein, from top to bottom, GP, GP $\Delta$ V and, GP $\Delta$ III-GP $\Delta$ III/IV/V which displayed the same mobilities. Right panel: purified  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 domain or hexamer was phosphorylated with PKA and 0.1  $\mu$ M ATP in the absence (lanes 1) or in the presence of 10 nmol of peptides representing the C-terminal region of either GP $\Delta$ III (lanes 2) or GP $\Delta$ III/IV/V (lanes 3). Where indicated the phosphorylation mixtures of purified  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 domain were V8 digested and immunoprecipitated with antibodies specific for the N terminus of the human  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 domain (3). Bars and numbers indicate the position and sizes (kDa) of the molecular weight markers.

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Figure 17. Sequence alignment of GPΔIII and MBP. The phosphorylation sites for PKA (boxed) and the structural similarity for the sites at Ser 8 and 9 of MBP and GPΔIII respectively are shown (underlined). The identity (vertical bars) and chemical homology (dots) of the corresponding exon II (bent arrow) of both molecular species are indicated. The complete sequence of GPΔIII (SEQ ID NO:61) from the collagenase cleavage site (72-residues) is aligned with the 69-N terminal residues of MBP (SEQ ID NO:62) comprising the exon I and ten residues of the exon II.

Figure 18. Phosphorylation of recombinant MBP proteins by PKA. About 200 ng of rMBP (lane 1), or Ser to Ala mutants thereof in position 8 (lane 2) or 57 (lane 3), or rMPBΔII (lane 4) or Ser to Ala mutants thereof in position 8 (lane 5) or 57 (lane 6), were phosphorylated by PKA and 0.1 μM ATP. The mixtures were subjected to SDS-PAGE, transferred to PVDF and autoradiographed (Phosphorylation) and the individual molecular species blotted with monoclonal antibodies against human MBP obtained from Roche Molecular Biochemicals (Western).

Figure 19. Phosphorylation of recombinant MBP proteins by GPBP. About 200 ng of rMBP (lane 1), or Ser to Ala mutants thereof in positions 8 (lane 2) or 57 (lane 3), or rMPBΔII (lane 4), or Ser to Ala mutants thereof in positions 8 (lane 5) or 57 (lane 6), were subjected to SDS-PAGE, transferred to PVDF, and the area containing the proteins visualized with Ponceau and stripped out. The immobilized proteins were in situ phosphorylated with rGPBP as described in Materials and Methods, autoradiographed (Phosphorylation) and subsequently blotted as in Fig. 18 (Western).

Figure 20. Regulation of the GPBP by the C terminal region of GPΔIII. About 200 ng of rGPBP were in vitro phosphorylated with 150 μM ATP in the absence (lane 1) or

in the presence of 5 nmol of GPAIII-derived peptide synthesized either using Boc- (lane 2) or Fmoc- (lane 3) chemistry. The reaction mixtures were subjected to SDS-PAGE, transferred to PVDF and autoradiographed to assess autophosphorylation, and subsequently blotted with anti-FLAG monoclonal antibodies (Sigma) to determine the amount of recombinant material present (Western).

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Figure 21. The GP antibodies recognize multiple α3 polypeptides present in human renal cortex NC1. In A, "hexamer" from human renal cortex (2.5-3 μg) was dissociated by SDS-PAGE under non-reducing conditions and the "monomer" fraction subjected to Western-blot analysis using human normal serum (lane 1), serum containing p-ANCA autoantibodies (lane 2) or with representative individual GP sera (lanes 3-8). Similar negative results to those in lanes 1 and 2 were obtained with five normal sera and two other non-GP autoimmune sera. In B, 150 ng of FLAG-tagged recombinant proteins representing each individual human α(IV)NC1, fα1-fα6, were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and blotted with the individual GP sera used in A. Shown are the two patterns of reactivity observed. The numbers on the side refer to the lane number in A to identify individual GP sera. In C, the GP antibodies extracted from a patient kidney were used to blot 100 ng of either fα1-fα6 (left) or 50 ng of fα3 and fα4 (right) in the absence (-) or in the presence of 10 μg/ml of fα3 or fα4. No reactivity was observed when using control kidney extracts as blotting material (not shown). Numbers and bars at site of the composite in this and following figures indicate size in kDa and position of the rainbow molecular weight markers used (Amersham Bioscience).

Figure 22. Identification of the multiple α3(IV)NC1 polypeptides present in human collagen IV as conformational isoforms (conformers). In A, the human "monomers" isolated as in Fig. 21A were blotted using the following α3(IV)NC1 specific antibodies: Mab189, Mab175, MabM3/1 and Mab3 (lanes 1-4, respectively). In B, size-fractions of the human "monomers" isolated from a non-reducing fusible acrylamide SDS-PAGE gel (lanes 1-8) were re-analyzed under non reducing (NR) or reducing (R) conditions and blotted with Mab189. The position of the 27-kDa conformer in A, and the position of the 29-kDa reduced isoforms in B are indicated. Similar results to those shown in B were obtained with two other different α3(IV)NC1 specific Mab.

Figure 23. The 22-kDa conformer is the preferred substrate for PKA in vitro. Human α3(IV)NC1 (27-kDa) was phosphorylated at the indicated ATP concentrations (A, B). In A, similar amounts of incorporated <sup>32</sup>P were analyzed by SDS-PAGE under non-reducing (NR) or reducing (R) conditions and autoradiographed (left) or V8 protease-digested,

precipitated with pre-immune or anti-GPpep1 serum and similarly analyzed under reducing conditions (right). In B, at the indicated incubation times identical amounts of phosphorylation mixtures were analyzed under non reducing conditions as in A. In C, two  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 "monomer" pools, 27-kDa (lanes 1) or 22-25-kDa (lanes 2), were phosphorylated at 0.15  $\mu$ M ATP and the mixtures subjected to SDS-PAGE under the indicated redox conditions, transferred and analyzed by autoradiography and Western-blot using Mab175.

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Figure 24. The 22-25-kDa conformers are the preferred substrate for endogenous protein kinases. The "monomer" fraction of the human "hexamer" was analyzed by Western-blot using N terminal α3(IV)NC1 specific MabP1/2 (GP), and anti-phosphoserine antibodies [Ser(P)].

Figure 25. The conformation of the α3(IV)NC1 domain depends on phosphorylation. Untreated or alkaline phosphatase-treated fα3 were allowed to rearrange disulfide-bonds in the presence of DTT and Mn<sup>2+</sup> until DTT was fully oxidized. Then the material was analyzed by Western-blot using the indicated α3(IV)-specific antibodies. In NR we loaded 550 and 275 ng for Mab3 and Mab175 studies, respectively, whereas R contained half of the amount used in the corresponding NR study. Approximately 200 ng and 100 ng of starting material were used for NR and R respectively in the control lanes.

Figure 26. Ser 9 (P) promotes conformational diversification of the human  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain. Culture media (50  $\mu$ l) from cells expressing human recombinant  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 (Ser), or mutants thereof in which Ser 9 was replaced by Ala (Ala) or Asp (Asp) were analyzed by Western-blot using the indicated antibodies and redox conditions.

Figure 27. The highly phosphorylated 22-25-kDa are the more interactive  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers. The "monomer" fraction of the human "hexamer" was analyzed by Western-blot using N terminal  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 specific MabP1/2 (GP), anti-phosphoserine antibodies [Ser(P)] or  $\alpha 3$  and  $\alpha$ -FLAG antibodies ( $\alpha 3$  binding). In this and following figures, numbers and bars indicate size in kDa and position of molecular weight markers, respectively.

Figure 28. Phosphorylation promotes the disulfide-based aggregation of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain. In A, DTT oxidation in the absence (Ø) or in the presence of ~20 ng of non-assembled 27-kDa (GP1), 22-27-kDa (GP2) or  $\alpha 3$ , or assembled (Hex) human  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 was monitored (left). At right, ~75 ng of non-assembled (Monomer) or assembled (Hexamer) human  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 before (lanes 1) and after (lanes 2) a standard oligomerization assay were analyzed by SDS-PAGE under the indicated redox conditions, transferred and blotted with Mab175. With the exception of  $\alpha 3$  that contained residual non-oligomerized material similar

results were obtained when assaying 27-kDa (shown) or 22-25-kDa (not shown) conformers. The amount of non disulfide-cross-linked \(\alpha\)3(IV) material present in the "hexamer" (assembled "monomer") was estimated by SDS-PAGE and Western-blot analysis using Mab175. In B, human "monomers" (~25 ng) at the indicated combinations were allowed to oligomerize, and the non-oligomerized fa3 was detected by Western-blot with \(\alpha\)-FLAG. For a better detection of non-oligomerized fa3, in NR we loaded twice the amount of the reaction mixture loaded in R. In C, the indicated combinations were analyzed as in B and the DTT consumption monitored. Left to right samples in the blot composite correspond to the top to bottom curves in the graphic. The basal consumption of DTT in the presence or absence of alkaline phosphatase has been respectively subtracted in the graphic.

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Figure 29. The α3(IV)NC1 domain undergoes conformational changes during disulfide-based aggregation which depend on phosphorylation. One micromolar of fα3 (Control) or alkaline phosphatase-treated fα3 (Phosphatase) was excited at 280 nm and fluorescence emission spectrum determined prior (top black curves), immediately (second black curves from top) or 15 minutes after (gray curves) addition of 1mM DTT. Subsequently, 5 mM Cl<sub>2</sub>Mn was added and emission spectrum determined after 45 minutes (bottom black curves). Fluorescence intensity is expressed in arbitrary units (a.u.).

Figure 30. GPBP preferentially binds to the highly phosphorylated 22-25-kDa a3(IV)NC1 conformers. The "monomer" fraction of the human "hexamer" was analyzed by Western-blot using anti-phosphoserine antibodies [Ser(P)] or GPBP and Mab14 (GPBP binding).

Figure 31. GPBP catalyzes the conformational isomerization and disulfide-based aggregation of the α3(IV)NC1 domain. In A, similar amounts of bovine α3(IV)NC1 (~300 ng) were allowed to oligomerize in the presence of rGPBP or rGPBPΔ26 (~500 ng) or equivalent amounts of bovine serum albumin (BSA) until DTT was fully oxidized. The non-oligomerized material was analyzed by Western-blot performed under non-reducing (NR) or reducing (R) conditions using the indicated α3(IV)-specific antibodies. Shown are the regions comprised between 21- and 30-kDa. In B, samples from similar assays to that shown in A were analyzed by Western-blot performed under non-reducing conditions using the indicated antibodies. In C, a similar assay as in B was performed using recombinant material representing the human α3(IV)NC1 produced in bacteria. Similar amounts of the indicated samples were analyzed by Western-blot under non-reducing (NR) or reducing (R) conditions and blotted with the indicated antibodies. Similar results were obtained regardless the presence of DTT/Mn<sup>2+</sup> or

ATP in the oligomerization mixture (not shown). In **D**, a similar assay to that in **A** was performed using untreated or phosphatase treated human recombinant for and the indicated samples were similarly analyzed.

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Figure 32. Augmented expression of alternatively spliced products of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 in GP kidneys. In A, the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1-related transcripts from a control kidney (Con) or from three independent GP kidneys (Patient 1-3) were retro-transcribed and amplified by PCR. The resulting cDNAs were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis and stained with ethidium bromide. In the composite we indicate the two major products identified by nucleotide sequencing or endonuclease digestion, the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 primary product (GP) and the alternatively spliced variant GPAIII. In B, we have expressed in a semi-logarithm plot the estimated mRNA copy number for all the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1-related products (GPt) or for the alternatively spliced variant GPAIII after normalization with the estimated mRNA copy number for GAPDH in control (Con) or GP (Patient) kidneys. The values represent the mean of five control kidneys or individual GP kidneys from three different PCR done in duplicate  $\pm$  S.D. In C, the values in B are represented in lineal scale to show the mRNA copy number encoding GPAIII per hundred mRNA copies derived from *COL4A3*.

Figure 33. Immunochemical characterization of the α3(IV)NC1 domain in GP kidneys. Similar amounts of collagen IV NC1 purified from control (Con) or from two independent GP kidneys (Patients 2 and 3) were subjected to SDS-PAGE under non-reducing conditions, transferred and the monomer region comprised between 21- and 30-kDa blotted with the indicated antibodies. The position of the 27-kDa conformer is denoted.

Figure 34. Immunochemical characterization of the high molecular weight disulfide-based oligomers present in GP kidneys. A similar SDS-PAGE study to that shown in Figure 33 was silver stained (A) or similarly transferred (B) and the region boxed either blotted with the indicated antibodies or with α-FLAG after probing with fα3 (fα3 binding). The numbers and bars at site indicate here and in the following Figures the size (kDa) and position of the rainbow coloured protein molecular weight markers (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech). Reduction of the three samples resulted in similar amounts of monomer-sized material in all three samples (not shown).

Figure 35. The a3(IV)NC1 of disease-affected kidneys is preferentially recognized by the GP antibodies. Similar amounts of collagen IV NC1 extracted from a control or a GP kidney were SDS-PAGE analyzed as in Fig. 33 using the a3(IV)NC1 specific antibody Mab175 (Mab) or with the antibodies eluted from the corresponding patient kidney (Autoantibodies).

Similar results were obtained when assaying the autoantibodies isolated from two different GP kidneys versus two independent control samples. Antibodies extracted from control kidneys displayed no reactivity in the region displayed (not shown).

Figure 36. Augmented expression of GPBP in GP kidneys. We express in lineal plots the estimated copy number for the mRNA transcribed from COLAA3BP (GPBPt) or for the mRNA encoding GPBP or GPBP $\Delta$ 26, after normalization with the estimated mRNA copy number for GAPDH in control (Con) or GP kidneys (Patient). The values represent the mean of five control kidneys or individual GP kidneys obtained from three different PCR that were done in duplicate  $\pm$  S.D.

Figure 37. A model for GP autoimmune response. Early in pathogenesis a coordinated induction of the transcriptional activity of the highly homologous promoters controlling COLAA3 and COLAA3BP result in augmented levels of GPΔIII and GPBP respectively. GPΔIII, by inducing PKA action, would promote non-physiological phosphorylation of the N-terminal region of the α3(IV)NC1 domain alone or in collaboration with GPBP. Aberrant phosphorylation generates activated structures with a defective assembly program (altered conformers) that are efficiently assembled into the collagen IV network assisted by the increased levels of GPBP. The conformers with altered conformation by exposing immunologically privileged epitope(s) trigger an otherwise legitimate secondary antibody-mediated immune response.

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#### **Detailed Description of the Invention**

The abbreviations used herein are: BM, basement membrane; bp, base pair; DTT, dithiothreitol; DMEM, Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium; EDTA, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid; EGTA, ethylene glycol-bis(β-aminoethyl ether) N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid; GBM, glomerular basement membrane; GP, Goodpasture; rGPΔIII, rGPΔIII/IV/V and rGPΔV, recombinant material representing the alternative forms of the Goodpasture antigen resulting from splicing out exon III, exon III, IV and V or exon V, respectively; GPBP and rGPBP, native and recombinant Goodpasture antigen binding protein; GPBPΔ26 and rGPBPΔ26, native and recombinant alternative form of the GPBP; GSH and GSSG, glutathione reduced and oxidized respectively; HLA, human lymphocyte antigens; HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography; Kb, thousand base pairs; kDa (or kD), thousand daltons; MBP, rMBP, native and recombinant 21 kDa myelin basic protein; MBPΔII and rMBPΔII, native and recombinant 18.5 kDa myelin basic protein that results from splicing

out exon II; MBPΔV and MBPΔII/V, myelin basic protein alternative forms resulting from splicing out exon V and exons II and V, respectively; MHC, major histocompatibility complex; NC1, non-collagenous domain; PH, pleckstrin homology; PDI, protein disulfide isomerase; PKA, cPKA, cAMP-dependent protein kinase and catalytic subunit thereof; PMSF, phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride; SDS-PAGE, sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis; TBS, tris buffered saline.

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Within this application, unless otherwise stated, the techniques utilized may be found in any of several well-known references such as: Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (Sambrook, et al., 1989, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press), Gene Expression Technology (Methods in Enzymology, Vol. 185, edited by D. Goeddel, 1991. Academic Press, San Diego, CA), "Guide to Protein Purification" in Methods in Enzymology (M.P. Deutshcer, ed., (1990) Academic Press, Inc.); PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications (Innis, et al. 1990. Academic Press, San Diego, CA), Culture of Animal Cells: A Manual of Basic Technique, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (R.I. Freshney. 1987. Liss, Inc. New York, NY), Gene Transfer and Expression Protocols, pp. 109-128, ed. E.J. Murray, The Humana Press Inc., Clifton, N.J.), and the Ambion 1998 Catalog (Ambion, Austin, TX).

As used herein, the term "GPBP" refers to Goodpasture binding protein, and includes both monomers and oligomers thereof. Human (SEQ ID NO:2), mouse (SEQ ID NO:4), and bovine GPBP sequences (SEQ ID NO:6) are provided herein.

As used herein, the term "GPBPA26" refers to Goodpasture binding protein deleted for the 26 amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:14, and includes both monomers and oligomers thereof. Human (SEQ ID NO:8), mouse (SEQ ID NO:10), and bovine GPBP sequences (SEQ ID NO:12) are provided herein.

As used herein the term "GPBPpep1" refers to the 26 amino acid peptide shown in SEO ID NO:14, and includes both monomers and oligomers thereof.

As used herein, the term "GP antigen" refers to the  $\alpha 3$  NC1 domain of type IV collagen.

As used herein, the terms "an α3 NC1 domain of type IV collagen" and "α3(IV)NC1" includes all conformational isomers thereof, and oligomers thereof, and also includes the α3(IV)NC1 mutants, α3(IV)NC1Asp9 (SEQ ID NO: 66) and α3(IV)NC1Ala9 (SEQ ID NO: 68), conformational isomers thereof and oligomers thereof, described below.

As used herein, the term "a3(IV)NC1Ser9" means the wilt type a3 NC1 domain of type IV collagen.

As used herein, the term "protein kinase A" refers to the cAMP-dependent protein kinase.

As used herein, "MBP" refers to myelin basic protein.

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target), or they can be identical.

As used herein, "test compound" refers to any substance that is tested for ability to produce the desired effects as discussed herein. It will be understood that such test compounds can be added to the various assays at a wide variety of concentrations in order to determine their effect on the results of the assay.

The inventor has discovered that GPBP, a non-conventional protein kinase that in vitro binds to and phosphorylates  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$ , the autoantigen in Goodpasture disease, also possesses chaperone, chaperonine, and protein disulfide isomerase (PDI) activities. The present invention demonstrates that GPBP activity includes (1) aggregate disruption (typical chaperone activity); (2) folding catalysis into multiple conformations (atypical chaperonine activity, since typically chaperonines catalyzes only one conformation) and (3) intra and intermolecular disulfide-bond shuffling. The present invention has established the importance of these activities in the autoimmune process, as well as the general importance of autoantigen aberrant phosphorylation and conformational isomerization, which can be influenced by factors in addition to GPBP.

treat an autoimmune condition, comprising identifying compounds that (a) reduce phosphorylation of a first target protein selected from the group consisting of GPBP, an  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:64; and (b) reduce formation of conformational isomers of a second target protein selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide and myelin basic protein, wherein such compounds are candidates for treating an autoimmune condition. Thus the first and second target proteins can different (for example, when GPBP is the first target and an  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide is the second target protein; or when

In one aspect, the present invention provides methods for identifying compounds to

The phosphorylation assays can be conducted in vitro on isolated targets, or can comprise analyzing the effects of the one or more test compounds on phosphorylation in cultured cells, although in vitro assays are preferred. A preferred method for identifying compounds that reduce in vitro phosphorylation of the target protein comprises:

GPpep1 is the first target and an \alpha3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide is the second

i) incubating the first target protein and ATP in the presence or absence of one or more test compounds under conditions that promote phosphorylation of the target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds;

ii) detecting phosphorylation of the first target protein; and

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iii) identifying test compounds that reduce phosphorylation of the first target protein relative to phosphorylation of the first target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds.

One of skill in the art is capable of determining suitable phosphorylation conditions for conducting the phosphorylation assay, and thus the present method is not limited by the details of the particular phosphorylation conditions employed. A non-limiting example of such suitable conditions for assaying phosphorylation of the first target comprises the use of 0.5 µg to 5 µg of the first target protein, Hepes buffer pH 7.5, and 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, optionally including 1 mM DTT, depending on the first target protein.

In a further preferred embodiment, the first target protein is GPBP, and the assay comprises analyzing the effect(s) of the one or more test compounds on GPBP autophosphorylation. In such an embodiment, an exemplary amount of GPBP for use in the assay is between 50 to 200 ng. In an alternative embodiment, the first target protein is selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ 3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, and an MBP polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:64, and the assay is conducted in the presence of GPBP to test for transphosphorylation of the first target protein by the protein kinase. In this embodiment, the first target protein can comprise a full length  $\alpha$ 3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide (including  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1Asp9 SEQ ID NO:66 or  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1Ala9 SEQ ID NO:68), full length MBP, or any fragments thereof containing the recited sequence.

For in vitro phosphorylation assays, detection of phosphorylation can be accomplished by any number of means, including but not limited to using <sup>32</sup>P labeled ATP and carrying out autoradiography of a Western blot of the resulting protein products on a reducing or non-reducing gel, or by scintillation counting after a step to separate incorporated from unincorporated label.

Analysis of in vitro phosphorylation may further include identifying the effect of the one or more test compounds on phosphorylation of individual conformational isomers of the first target protein, when the first target protein is selected from the group consisting of an a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide and MBP. Such identification can be

accomplished, for example, by carrying out SDS-PAGE on the reaction products of the phosphorylation reaction, followed by Western blotting, autoradiography and immunodetection of the target protein.

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Analysis of in vitro phosphorylation may further include identifying the effect of the one or more test compounds on Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation of the  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain. Such identification can be accomplished, for example, by comparing the immunoreactive patterns of antibodies specifically reacting with the N terminus of the  $\alpha 3$  (IV)NC1 (including but not limited to anti-GPpep1, MabM3/1 and MabP1/2, disclosed herein) and antibodies specifically reacting with Ser(P), such as those commercially available from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO). Alternatively, V8 protease digestion and anti-GPpep1 precipitation followed by reducing SDS-PAGE on the precipitated products and autoradiography can be used.

The data presented herein demonstrate that phosphorylation at Ser<sup>9</sup> exerts a positive control over conformational isomerization of  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1, and efficiently changes the cohort of  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers produced by a cell. These findings indicate that Ser<sup>9</sup> is, at least in part, the structural feature that renders the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain immunogenic, and suggest that, during pathogenesis, a phosphorylation event lead the formation of conformers for which the immune system has not established a tolerance. Thus, determining the effect of test compounds on phosphorylation of the Ser<sup>9</sup> residue of  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain may be important in identifying especially useful candidate compounds for treating autoimmune disorders.

Alternatively, the effects of test compounds on phosphorylation of the first target protein can be analyzed in cultured cells. Such a method involves contacting cells that express a first target protein selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide and MBP, under conditions to promote phosphorylation, detecting phosphorylation of the first target protein; and identifying test compounds that reduce phosphorylation of the first target protein relative to phosphorylation of the first target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds. Appropriate cells for use are eukaryotic cells that express the appropriate first target protein. Methods of detecting phosphorylation are as described above.

As used herein, the phrase "reduce/reducing phosphorylation" means to lessen the phosphorylation of the target protein relative to phosphorylation of the target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds. Such "reducing" does not require elimination of phosphorylation, and includes any detectable reduction in phosphorylation. Thus, a test compound that inhibits phosphorylation of the first target by, for example, as little as 10-20%

would be considered a test compound that reduced phosphorylation. Such a compound may, for example, affect phosphorylation of Ser9, which is shown to exert a powerful control on conformational diversification, and thus to be a strong candidate for an inhibitor of autoimmunity. Alternatively, a test compound may inhibit phosphorylation of a first target protein, such as an a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26 by 90%, but have little inhibitory effect on conformational isomerization of the second target protein, because reduction affects phosphorylation at sites other than Ser9. By performing assays both for phosphorylation inhibition of the first target protein, and conformer inhibition of the second target protein, it is possible to identify those compounds with the best potential for use as therapeutics for autoimmune disorders.

Similarly, inhibition of conformational isomerization of the second target protein can be carried out in vitro using isolated components, or can be carried out in cultured cells, although the use of cultured cells is preferred. In a preferred embodiment using cultured cells, identifying compounds that reduce formation of conformational isomers of the second target protein comprises:

i) providing cells expressing the second target protein;

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- ii) culturing the cells in the presence or absence of one or more test compounds, under conditions that promote conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds;
  - iii) detecting conformational isomerization of the second target protein; and
- iv) identifying test compounds that reduce conformational isomerization of the second target protein relative to conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds.

Appropriate cells for use are eukaryotic cells that express the appropriate second target protein. In a preferred embodiment, cell lines stably transfected to express the second target protein are used.

In this embodiment, detection of conformational isomers of, for example, the  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide, and the effects of the test compounds thereon, generally involve immunodetection using Western blots of non-reducing SDS-PAGE gels containing the  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide from the cells. The  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide can be purified via standard techniques (such as using cells transfected with a recombinant second target protein that is linked to an epitope tag or other tag to facilitate purification), or cell extracts can be analyzed. In a most preferred embodiment, stable cell lines (such as those disclosed herein) expressing recombinant

α3(IV)NC1 are used, which secrete the protein into the medium in a monomeric form, permitting running of serum-free media samples on SDS-PAGE gels and subsequent Western blot analysis and immunodetection. Preferably, immunodetection is carried out using, in parallel, an antibody that detects a native conformation of α3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide (including but not limited to Mab3 disclosed herein), and an antibody that detects all α3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide conformational isomers (including but not limited to Mab175 disclosed herein). Alternatively, serum free media or otherwise isolated proteins could be used to coat ELISA plates, followed by similar immunodetection using antibodies that selectively bind to native conformers and either aberrant conformers or all conformers, respectively, and analysis using plate readers.

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In a preferred embodiment of an in vitro assay for inhibitors of conformational isomerization of the second target protein, the method comprises

- i) contacting in vitro the second target protein with GPBP in the presence or absence of one or more test compounds under conditions that promote GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds;
- ii) detecting GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein; and
- iii) identifying test compounds that reduce GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein relative to GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds.

As used herein, the phrase "reduce/reducing conformational isomerization" means to lessen the formation of conformers of the target protein relative to conformer production under control conditions. Such "reducing" does not require elimination of conformer formation, and includes any detectable reduction in conformer formation. Furthermore, such "reduction in conformer formation" may entail a reduction in only one, or fewer than all conformational isomers; one can envision that such a reduction in production of specific conformers may be accompanied by an increase in the formation of other conformers. For example, we show in the examples to follow that, for the a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide, a 27 kD conformer is the primary product, from which the remaining conformers derive. Thus, in a further preferred embodiment, the method comprises identifying those compounds that do not alter the formation of the 27-kDa conformer, but reduce formation of one or more of the other conformers. A preferred method for monitoring this inhibition of specific conformers is to use Mab3 antibody (described below), which only

reacts with the 27-kDa conformer, in parallel with Mab175, which is equally reactive with all a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain conformers.

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In a further preferred embodiment of the assays to identify inhibitors of conformational isomerization of the second target protein, the second target protein is an a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide, and analysis of test compound effect on conformer formation of each of wild type a3(IV)NC1 and a3(IV)NC1Asp9 (SEQ ID NO:66) is carried out in parallel. a3(TV)NC1Asp9 is modified to replace Ser9 with Asp9, an amino acid residue that mimics an always phosphorylated residue, which is used herein as an example of an aberrant phosphorylation of a3(TV)NC1, that leads to the production of aberrant conformers, as demonstrated in the Examples to follow. In example 4, we show that a3(TV)NC1Asp9 expressing cells produce a larger number of conformers than cells expressing a3(IV)NC1Ser9. Furthermore a3(IV)NC1Asp9 cells expresses a 27-kDa conformer that reacts more strongly with Mab3, as well as Goodpasture patient autoantibodies, than the 27-kDa conformer produced by a3(IV)NC1Ser9 expressing cells. It is most preferred to identify compounds that abolish these differences in conformer production between a3(IV)NC1Asp9 and a3(IV)NC1Ser9, because this will indicate that the compound inhibits the production of an aberrant 27-kDa conformer from a3(IV)NC1Asp9, while maintaining appropriate conformer production for α3(IV)NC1Ser9.

In a further preferred embodiment, identifying compounds for treating an autoimmune disorder further comprises identifying compounds that reduce oligomerization of the second target protein. While not being limited by a specific mechanism, the inventor proposes that the ideal drug candidate for treating autoimmune disorders would inhibit the kinase and chaperonine activity of GPBP, but would not inhibit its chaperone (ie: aggregate-disrupting) activity, in order to minimize the possibility that inhibition of GPBP activity would lead to increased random aggregate formation. Even more preferably, the ideal drug candidate would, in fact, enhance the chaperone activity of GPBP, to minimize secondary effects derived from undesirable aggregation of conformers.

Both in vitro assays and assays utilizing cultured cells can be used fore identifying compounds that reduce oligomerization of the second target protein, although in vitro methods are preferred. One embodiment of an in vitro assay comprises:

i) incubating in vitro the second target protein, GPBP, and a redox system in the presence or absence of one or more test compounds, under conditions to promote GPBP-induced-oligomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds; and

ii) identifying test compounds that reduce GPBP-induced oligomerization of the second target protein relative to GPBP induced oligomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds.

In a preferred embodiment, the second target protein is an α3(IV)NC1 domain polypeptide. Any appropriate redox system can be used, such as DTT/Mn<sup>2+</sup> (exemplified in Material and Methods of Example 5 below), or with GSH/GSSG (glutathione reduced and oxidized respectively) at 1.0 mM/0.2 mM at pH 8.0 in a similar buffer.

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One of skill in the art will be able to determine appropriate conditions for promoting GPBP-induced oligomerization of the second target protein, and thus the method is not limited to specific details of the conditions. A non-limiting example of such conditions is provided in Example 5 below.

Detection of oligomers, and the effect of test compounds thereon, is preferably carried out by Western blotting of a non-reducing SDS-PAGE gel of the isolated recombinant  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptides after incubation, and probing with antibodies that recognize the  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptides. Preferably, immunodetection is carried out using, in parallel, an antibody that detects a native conformation of  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide (including but not limited to Mab3 disclosed herein), and an antibody that detects all  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide conformational isomers (including but not limited to Mab175 disclosed herein).

In a preferred embodiment of the oligomerization assay using cultured cells, cells that express type IV collagen are contacted with the one or more test compounds, and the extracellular matrix produced by the cells is collagenase digested and analyzed for  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 oligomers by Western blot analysis as described herein.

As used herein the phrase "reduce/reducing GPBP induced disulfide-mediated oligomerization of the a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide" means to decrease the amount of GPBP induced disulfide-mediated oligomers of the a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide relative to oligomerization under control conditions. Such "reducing" does not require elimination of oligomer formation, and includes any detectable reduction in oligomer formation, including reduction in only a single species of oligomer in the presence of increased in other species of oligomers.

In another aspect, the present invention provides isolated nucleic acids that encode  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1(Asp9) (SEQ ID NO:66) and  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1(Ala9) (SEQ ID NO:68). The production and use of these mutant  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domains are described below. The nucleic acid sequences are useful, for example, for the production of the respective encoded polypeptide.

An used herein, an "isolated nucleic acid sequence" refers to a nucleic acid sequence that is free of gene sequences which naturally flank the nucleic acid in the genomic DNA of the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived (i.e., genetic sequences that are located adjacent to the gene for the isolated nucleic molecule in the genomic DNA of the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived). An "isolated" nucleic acid sequence according to the present invention may, however, be linked to other nucleotide sequences that do not normally flank the recited sequence, such as a heterologous promoter sequence. It is not necessary for the isolated nucleic acid sequence to be free of other cellular material to be considered "isolated", as a nucleic acid sequence according to the invention may be part of an expression vector that is used to transfect host cells

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In another aspect, the present invention provides recombinant expression vectors comprising nucleic acid sequences that encode a3NC1(Asp9) (SEQ ID NO:66) or a3NC1(Ala9) (SEQ ID NO:68). In one embodiment, the vectors comprise nucleic acid sequences consisting of the sequences shown in SEQ ID NO:65 or SEQ ID NO:67.

"Recombinant expression vector" includes vectors that operatively link a nucleic acid coding region or gene to any promoter capable of effecting expression of the gene product. The promoter sequence used to drive expression of the disclosed nucleic acid sequences in a mammalian system may be constitutive (driven by any of a variety of promoters, including but not limited to, CMV, SV40, RSV, actin, EF) or inducible (driven by any of a number of inducible promoters including, but not limited to, tetracycline, ecdysone, steroid-responsive). The construction of expression vectors for use in transfecting prokaryotic cells is also well known in the art, and thus can be accomplished via standard techniques. (See, for example, Sambrook, Fritsch, and Maniatis, in: Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989; Gene Transfer and Expression Protocols, pp. 109-128, ed. E.J. Murray, The Humana Press Inc., Clifton, N.J.), and the Ambion 1998 Catalog (Ambion, Austin, TX)

The expression vector must be replicable in the host organism either as an episome or by integration into host chromosomal DNA. In a preferred embodiment, the expression vector comprises a plasmid. However, the invention is intended to include other expression vectors that serve equivalent functions, such as viral vectors.

The expression vector may encode additional sequences that are operably linked to the nucleic acid encoding that encode α3(IV)NC1(Asp9) (SEQ ID NO:66) and α3(IV)NC1(Ala9) SEQ ID NO:68). Such additional sequences can encode, for example, amino acid sequences useful for promoting purification of the protein, such as epitope tags and

transport signals. Examples of such epitope tags include, but are not limited to FLAG (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO), myc (9E10) (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), 6-His (Invitrogen; Novagen, Madison, WI), and HA (Boehringer Manheim Biochemicals). Examples of such transport signals include, but are not limited to, export signals, secretory signals, nuclear localization signals, and plasma membrane localization signals. Other examples of additional sequences include, but are not limited to, polyadenylation signals to effect proper polyadenylation of the transcript, and termination signals.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides host cells that have been transfected with the recombinant expression vectors disclosed herein, wherein the host cells can be either prokaryotic or eukaryotic. The cells can be transiently or stably transfected. Such transfection of expression vectors into prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells can be accomplished via any technique known in the art, including but not limited to standard bacterial transformations, calcium phosphate co-precipitation, electroporation, or liposome mediated-, DEAE dextran mediated-, polycationic mediated-, or viral mediated transfection. (See, for example, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (Sambrook, et al., 1989, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press; Culture of Animal Cells: A Manual of Basic Technique, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (R.I. Freshney. 1987. Liss, Inc. New York, NY),

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In a still further aspect, the present invention provides isolated polypeptides selected from the group consisting of α3(IV)NC1Asp9 (SEQ ID NO:66) and α3(IV)NC1Ala9 (SEQ ID NO:68). These polypeptides represent mutant α3(IV)NC1, which have been substitute at the Ser9 residue to mimic an always phosphorylated position 9 (Asp9), or an always unphosphorylated position 9 (Ala9). As described herein, such α3(IV)NC1 mimics can be used, for example, in carrying out the drug discovery assays of the invention, as described above.

As used herein, "a3(IV)NC1Asp9" and "a3(IV)NC1Ala9" include all conformational isomers, as well as oligomers thereof.

The protein may comprise additional sequences useful for promoting purification of the protein, such as epitope tags and transport signals. Examples of such epitope tags include, but are not limited to FLAG (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO), myc (9E10) (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), 6-His (Invitrogen; Novagen, Madison, WI), and HA (Boehringer Manheim Biochemicals). Examples of such transport signals include, but are not limited to, export signals, secretory signals, nuclear localization signals, and plasma membrane localization signals.

The experiments described below disclose the isolation of type IV collagen a NC1 domain conformational isomers ("conformers"). Thus, in a further embodiment, the present invention provides an isolated type IV collagen a NC1 domain conformational isomer,

wherein the isolated conformational isomer has an amino acid sequence identical to that of wild type a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain (SEQ ID NO:69), wherein the conformational isomer is stabilized by disulfide bonds, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has a molecular weight in a non-reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel selected from the group consisting of 22 kD, 23, kD, 25 kD, 27 kD, and 28 kD, and wherein the conformational isomer has a molecular weight of 29 kDa in a reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel.

Isolation of the conformers can be accomplished by separation of the conformers on a non-reducing SDS-PAGE gel, cutting out of the relevant bands from the gel, and isolating the conformer away from the gel components. Alternatively, such conformers can be isolated by HPLC methods, such as those described in Example 4, below.

The invention further comprises an isolated, aberrant conformational isomer of a3(IV)NC1Asp9, wherein the isomer has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:66, wherein the conformational isomer is stabilized by disulfide bonds, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has a molecular weight in a non-reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel selected from the group consisting of 25 kD and 27 kD, and wherein the conformational isomer has a molecular weight of 29 kDa in a reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel.

As used herein, the term "isolated" means that the conformer is separated from its cellular environment, and purified away from any gel matrix, such as polyacrylamide. Such "isolated" conformers are substantially separated from other conformers, such that a particular "isolated conformer" constitutes at least 70% of the type IV collagen a NC1 domain polypeptide present in the isolated sample, more preferably 80%, even more preferably 90%, and even more preferably more than 95%. Such "isolated" conformers can be suspended in any appropriate buffer or pharmaceutical composition, and are useful, for example, for preparing antibodies to specific conformers, and for use in the drug discovery assays of the invention.

The present invention may be better understood with reference to the accompanying examples that are intended for purposes of illustration only and should not be construed to limit the scope of the invention, as defined by the claims appended hereto.

#### 30 Example 1: Characterization of GPBP

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Here we report the cloning and characterization of a novel type of serine/threonine kinase that specifically binds to and phosphorylates the unique N-terminal region of the human GP antigen.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Synthetic polymers-Peptides. GPpep1, KGKRGDSGSPATWTTRGFVFT (SEQ ID NO:26), representing residues 3-23 of the human GP antigen and GPpep1Ala<sup>9</sup>, KGKRGDAGSPATWTTRGFVFT (SEQ ID NO:27), a mutant Ser<sup>9</sup> to Ala<sup>9</sup> thereof, were synthesized by MedProbe and CHIRON. FLAG peptide, was from Sigma.

Oligonucleotides. The following as well as several other GPBP-specific oligonucleotides were synthesized by Genosys and GIBCO BRL:

ON-GPBP-54m: TCGAATTCACCATGGCCCCACTAGCCGACTACAAGGACGACGATG ACAAG (SEQ ID NO: 28).

10 ON-GPBP-55c:

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CCGAGCCCGACGAGTTCCAGCTCTGATTATCCGACATCTTGTCATCG
TCG (SEQ ID NO:29).

ON-HNC-B-N-14m: CGGGATCCGCTAGCTAAGCCAGGCAAGGATGG (SEQ ID NO:30).

15 ON-HNC-B-N-16c: CGGGATCCATGCATAAATAGCAGTTCTGCTGT (SEQ ID NO:31).

Isolation and characterization of cDNA clones encoding human GPBP-Several human λ-gt11 cDNA expression libraries (eye, fetal and adult lung, kidney and HeLa S3, from CLONTECH) were probed for cDNAs encoding proteins interacting with GPpep1. Nitrocellulose filters (Millipore) prepared following standard immunoscreening procedures were blocked and incubated with 1-10 nmoles per ml of GPpep1 at 37°C. Specifically bound GPpep1 was detected using M3/1A monoclonal antibodies (7). A single clone was identified in the HeLa-derived library (HeLa1). Specificity of fusion protein binding was confirmed by similar binding to recombinant eukaryotic human GP antigen. The EcoRI cDNA insert of HeLa1 (0.5-kb) was used to further screen the same library and to isolate overlapping cDNAs. The largest cDNA (2.4-kb) containing the entire cDNA of HeLa1 (n4') was fully sequenced.

Northern and Southern blots-Pre-made Northern and Southern blots (CLONTECH) were probed with HeLa1 cDNA following manufacturer instructions.

Plasmid construction, expression and purification of recombinant proteins-GPBP-derived material. The original  $\lambda$ -gt11 HeLa1 clone was expressed as a lysogen in E. Coli Y1089 (8). The corresponding  $\beta$ -galactosidase-derived fusion protein containing the N-terminal 150 residues of GPBP was purified from the cell lysate using an APTG-agarose column (Boehringer). The EcoRI 2.4-kb fragment of n4' was subcloned in Bluescribe M13+

vector (Stratagene) (BS-n4'), amplified and used for subsequent cloning. A DNA fragment containing (from 5' to 3'), an EcoRI restriction site, a standard Kozak consensus for translation initiation, a region coding for a tag peptide sequence (FLAG, DYKDDDK (SEQ ID NO:32)), and the sequence coding for the first eleven residues of GPBP including the predicted Met<sub>i</sub> and a Ban II restriction site, was obtained by hybridizing ON-GPBP-54m and ON-GPBP-55c, and extending with modified T<sub>7</sub>DNA polymerase (Amersham). The resulting DNA product was digested with EcoRI and BanII, and ligated with the BanII/EcoRI cDNA fragment of BS-n4' in the EcoRI site of pHIL-D2 (Invitrogen) to produce pHIL-FLAG-n4'.

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This plasmid was used to obtain Mut<sup>s</sup> transformants of the GS115 strain of *Pichia pastoris* and to express FLAG-tagged recombinant GPBP (rGPBP) either by conventional liquid culture or by fermentation procedures (*Pichia* Expression Kit, Invitrogen). The cell lysates were loaded onto an anti-FLAG M2 column (Sigma), the unbound material washed out with Tris buffered saline (TBS, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl) or salt-supplemented TBS (up to 2M NaCl), and the recombinant material eluted with FLAG peptide.

For expression in cultured human kidney-derived 293 cells (ATCC 1573-CRL), the 2.4- or 2.0-kb EcoRI cDNA insert of either BS-n4' or pHIL-FLAG-n4' was subcloned in pcDNA3 (Invitrogen) to produce pc-n4' and pc-FLAG-n4' respectively. When used for transient expression, 18 hours after transfection the cells were lysed with 3.5-4 µl/cm² of chilled lysis buffer (1% Nonidet P-40 or Triton-X100, 5mM EDTA and 1 mM PMSF in TBS) with or without 0.1% SDS, depending on whether the lysate was to be used for SDS-PAGE or FLAG-purification, respectively. For FLAG purification, the lysate of four to six 175 cm² culture dishes was diluted up to 50 ml with lysis buffer and purified as above.

For stable expression, the cells were similarly transfected with pc-n4' and selected for three weeks with 800 µg/ml of G418. For bacterial recombinant expression, the 2.0-kb EcoRI cDNA fragment of pHIL-FLAG-n4' was cloned in-frame downstream of the glutathione S-transferase (GST)-encoding cDNA of pGEX-5x-1 (Pharmacia). The resulting construct was used to express GST-GPBP fusion protein in DH5 $\alpha$  cells (9).

GP antigen-derived material. Human recombinant GP antigen (rGP) was produced in 293 cells using the pRc/CMV-BM40 expression vector containing the α3-specific cDNA between ON-HNC-B-N-14m and ON-HNC-B-N-16c. The expression vector is a pRc/CMV (Invitrogen)-derived vector provided by Billy G. Hudson (Kansas University Medical Center) that contains cDNA encoding an initiation Met, a BM40 signal peptide followed by a tag

peptide sequence (FLAG), and a polylinker cloning site. To obtain  $\alpha 3$ -specific cDNA, a polymerase chain reaction was performed using the oligonucleotides above and a plasmid containing the previously reported  $\alpha 3$ (IV) cDNA sequence (3) as template (clone C2). For stable expression of rGP, 293 cells were transfected with the resulting construct ( $f\alpha 3$ VLC) and selected with 400  $\mu$ g/ml of G418. The harvested rGP was purified using an anti-FLAG M2 column.

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All the constructs were verified by restriction mapping and nucleotide sequencing.

Cell culture and DNA transfection-Human 293 cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum. Transfections were performed using the calcium phosphate precipitation method of the Profection Mammalian Transfection Systems (Promega). Stably transfected cells were selected by their resistance to G418. Foci of surviving cells were isolated, cloned and amplified.

Antibody production-Polyclonal antibodies against the N-terminal region of GPBP. Cells expressing HeLa1  $\lambda$ -gt11 as a lysogen were lysed by sonication in the presence of Laemmli sample buffer and subjected to electrophoresis in a 7.5% acrylamide preparative gel. The gel was stained with Coomassie blue and the band containing the fusion protein of interest excised and used for rabbit immunization (10). The anti-serum was tested for reactivity using APTG-affinity purified antigen. To obtain affinity-purified antibodies, the anti-serum was diluted 1:5 with TBS and loaded onto a Sepharose 4B column containing covalently bound affinity purified antigen. The bound material was eluted and, unless otherwise indicated, used in the immunochemical studies.

Monoclonal antibodies against GPBP. Monoclonal antibodies were produced essentially as previously reported (7) using GST-GPBP. The supernatants of individual clones were analyzed for antibodies against rGPBP.

In vitro phosphorylation assays-About 200 ng of rGPBP were incubated overnight at 30°C in 25 mM  $\beta$ -glycerolphosphate (pH 7.0), 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 8 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM MnCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM DTT and 0.132  $\mu$ M  $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P-ATP, in the presence or absence of 0.5-1  $\mu$ g of protein substrates or 10 nmoles of synthetic peptides, in a total volume of 50  $\mu$ l.

In vivo phosphorylation assays-Individual wells of a 24-well dish were seeded with normal or with stably pc-n4' transfected 293 cells. When the cells were grown to the desired density, a number of wells of the normal 293 cells were transfected with pc-FLAG-n4'. After 12 hours, the culture medium was removed, 20 µCi/well of H<sub>3</sub><sup>32</sup>PO4 in 100 µl of phosphate-free DMEM added, and incubation continued for 4 hours. The cells were lysed with 300

µl/well of TBS containing 1% Triton X-100, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, 50 mM NaF and 0.2 mM vanadate, and extracted with specific antibodies and Protein A-Sepharose. When anti-GPBP serum was used, the lysate was pre-cleared using pre-immune serum and Protein A-Sepharose.

In vitro dephosphorylation of rGPBP-About 1 µg of rGPBP was dephosphorylated in 100 µl of 10 mM Tris-acetate (pH 7.5), 10 mM magnesium acetate and 50 mM potassium acetate with 0.85 U of calf intestine alkaline phosphatase (Pharmacia) for 30 min at 30°C.

Renaturation assays-In-blot renaturation assays were performed using 1-5  $\mu$ g of rGPBP as previously described (11).

Nucleotide sequence analysis- cDNA sequence analyses were performed by the dideoxy chain termination method using  $[\alpha]^{35}$ S-dATP, modified T<sub>7</sub> DNA polymerase (Amersham) and universal or GPBP-specific primers (8-10).

<sup>32</sup>P-Phosphoamino acid analysis-Immunopurified rGPBP or HPLC gel-filtration fractions thereof containing the material of interest were phosphorylated, hydrolyzed and analyzed in one dimensional (4) or two dimensional thin layer chromatography (12). When performing two dimensional analysis, the buffer for the first dimension was formic acid:acetic acid:water (1:3.1:35.9) (pH 1.9) and the buffer for the second dimension was acetic acid:pyridine:water (2:0.2:37.8) (pH 3.5). Amino acids were revealed with ninhydrin, and <sup>32</sup>P-phosphoamino acids by autoradiography.

Physical methods and immunochemical techniques-SDS-PAGE and Western-blotting were performed as in (4). Immunohistochemistry studies were done on human multitissue control slides (Biomeda, Biogenex) using the ABC peroxidase method (13).

Computer analysis-Homology searches were carried out against the GenBank and SwissProt databases with the BLAST 2.0 (14) at the NCBI server, and against the TIGR Human Gene Index database for expressed sequence tags, using the Institute for Genomic Research server. The search for functional patterns and profiles was performed against the PROSITE database using the ProfileScan program at the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (15). Prediction of coiled-coil structures was done at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research using the program Coils (16) with both 21 and 28 residue windows.

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#### RESULTS

Molecular cloning of GPBP-To search for proteins specifically interacting with the divergent N-terminal region of the human GP antigen, a 21-residue peptide (GPpep1; SEQ ID NO:26)), encompassing this region and flanking sequences, and specific monoclonal antibodies against it were combined to screen several human cDNA expression libraries. More than 5 x 10<sup>6</sup> phages were screened to identify a single HeLa-derived recombinant encoding a fusion protein specifically interacting with GPpep1 without disturbing antibody binding.

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Using the cDNA insert of the original clone (HeLa1), we isolated a 2.4-kb cDNA (n4') that contains 408-bp of 5'-untranslated sequence, an open reading frame (ORF) of 1872-bp encoding 624 residues, and 109-bp of 3'-untranslated sequence (Fig. 1) (SEQ ID NO:1-2). Other structural features are of interest. First, the predicted polypeptide (hereinafter referred to as GPBP) has a large number of phosphorylatable (17.9%) and acidic (16%) residues unequally distributed along the sequence. Serine, which is the most abundant residue (9.3%), shows preference for two short regions of the protein, where it comprises nearly 40% of the amino acids, compared to an average of less than 7% throughout the rest of the polypeptide chain. It is also noteworthy that the more N-terminal, serine-rich region consists mainly of a Ser-Xaa-Yaa repeat. Acidic residues are preferentially located at the N-terminal three-quarters of the polypeptide, with nearly 18% of the residues being acidic. These residues represent only 9% in the most C-terminal quarter of the polypeptide, resulting in a polypeptide chain with two electrically opposite domains. At the N-terminus, the polypeptide contains a pleckstrin homology (PH) domain, which has been implicated in the recruitment of many signaling proteins to the cell membrane where they exert their biological activities (17). Finally, a bipartite nuclear targeting sequence (18) exists as an integral part of a heptad repeat region that meets all the structural requirements to form a coiled-coil (16).

Protein data bank searches revealed homologies almost exclusively within the approximately 100 residues at the N-terminal region harboring the PH domain. The PH domain of the oxysterol-binding protein is the most similar, with an overall identity of 33.5% and a similarity of 65.2% with GPBP. In addition, the *Caenorhabditis elegans* cosmid F25H2 (accession number Q93569) contains a hypothetical ORF that displays an overall identity of 26.5% and a similarity of 61% throughout the entire protein sequence, indicating that similar proteins are present in lower invertebrates. Several human expressed sequence tags (accession numbers AA287878, AA287561, AA307431, AA331618, AA040134, AA158618, AA040087, AA122226, AA158617, AA121104, AA412432, AA412433, AA282679 and N27578) possess a high degree of nucleotide identity (above 98%) with the corresponding stretches of the GPBP cDNA, suggesting that they represent human GPBP. Interestingly, the AA287878 EST shows a

gap of 67 nucleotides within the sequence corresponding to the GPBP 5'-untranslated region, suggesting that the GPBP pre-mRNA is alternatively spliced in human tissues (not shown).

The distribution and expression of the GPBP gene in human tissues was first assessed by Northern blot analysis (Fig. 2, panel A). The gene is expressed as two major mRNAs species between 4.4-kb and 7.5-kb in length and other minor species of shorter lengths. The structural relationship between these multiple mRNA species is not known and their relative expression varies between tissues. The highest expression level is seen in striated muscle (skeletal and heart), while lung and liver show the lowest expression levels.

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Southern blot studies analysis of genomic DNA from different species indicated that homologous genes exist throughout phylogeny (Fig. 2, panel B). Consistent with the human origin of the probe, the hybridization intensities decreased in a progressive fashion as the origin of the genomic DNA moves away from humans in evolution.

Experimental determination of the translation start site-To experimentally confirm the predicted ORF, eukaryotic expression vectors containing either the 2.4-kb of cDNA of n4', or only the predicted ORF tagged with a FLAG sequence (Fig. 3A), were used for transient expression assays in 293 cells. The corresponding extracts were analyzed by immunoblot using GPBP- or FLAG-specific antibodies. The GPBP-specific antibodies bind to a similar major polypeptide in both transfected cells, but only the polypeptide produced by the engineered construct expressed the FLAG sequence (Fig. 3B). This located the translation start site of the n4' cDNA at the predicted Met and confirmed the proposed primary structure. Furthermore, the recombinant polypeptides displayed a molecular mass higher than expected (80 versus 71 kDa) suggesting that GPBP undergoes post-translational modifications.

Expression and characterization of yeast rGPBP-Yeast expression and FLAG-based affinity-purification were combined to produce rGPBP (Fig. 4A). A major polypeptide of ~89 kDa, along with multiple related products displaying lower  $M_r$ , were obtained. The recombinant material was recognized by both anti-FLAG and GPBP-specific antibodies, guaranteeing the fidelity of the expression system. Again, however, the  $M_r$  displayed by the major product was notably higher than predicted and even higher than the  $M_r$  of the 293 cell-derived recombinant material, supporting the idea that GPBP undergoes important and differential post-translational modifications. Since phosphorylatable residues are abundant in the polypeptide chain, we investigated the existence of phosphoamino acids in the recombinant materials. By using monoclonal or polyclonal (not shown) antibodies against phosphoserine (Pser), phosphothreonine (PThr) and phosphotyrosine (PTyr), we identified the presence of all three phosphoresidues either in yeast rGPBP (Fig. 4B) or in 293 cell-derived material (not shown).

The specificity of the antibodies was further assessed by partially inhibiting their binding by the addition of 5-10 mM of the corresponding phosphoamino acid (not shown). This suggests that the phosphoresidue content varies depending upon the cell expression system, and that the  $M_r$  differences are mainly due to phosphorylation. Dephosphorylated yeast-derived material consistently displayed similar  $M_r$  to the material derived from 293 cells, and phosphoamino acid content correlates with SDS-PAGE mobilities (Fig.4C). As an *in vivo* measurement, the phosphorylation of rGPBP in the 293 cells was assessed (Fig. 4D). Control cells (lanes 1) and cells expressing rGPBP in a stable (lanes 2) or transient (lanes 3) mode were cultured in the presence of  $H_3^{32}PO_4$ . Immunoprecipitated recombinant material contained  $^{32}P$ , indicating that phosphorylation of GPBP occurred *in vivo* and therefore is likely to be a physiological process.

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The rGPBP is a serine/threonine kinase that phosphorylates the N-terminal region of the human GP antigen-Although GPBP does not contain the conserved structural regions required to define the classic catalytic domain for a protein kinase, the recent identification and characterization of novel non-conventional protein kinases (19-27) encouraged the investigation of its phosphorylating activity. Addition of  $[\gamma^{32}P]ATP$  to rGPBP (either from yeast or 293 cells (not shown)) in the presence of Mn<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> resulted in the incorporation of <sup>32</sup>P as PSer and PThr in the major and related products recognized by both anti-FLAG and specific antibodies (Fig. 5A and B), indicating that the affinity-purified material contains a Ser/Thr protein kinase. To further characterize this activity, GPpep1, GPpep1Ala9 (a GPpep1 mutant with Ser9 replaced by Ala), native and recombinant human GP antigens, and native bovine GP antigen were assayed (Fig. 5C). Affinity-purified rGPBP phosphorylates all human-derived material to a different extent. However, in similar conditions, no appreciable <sup>32</sup>P-incorporation was observed in the bovine-derived substrate. The lower <sup>32</sup>P incorporation displayed by GPpep1Ala<sup>9</sup> when compared with GPpep1, and the lack of phosphorylation of the bovine antigen, indicates that the kinase present in rGPBP discriminates between human and bovine antigens, and that Ser<sup>9</sup> is a target for the kinase.

Although the purification system provides high quality material, the presence of contaminants with a protein kinase activity could not be ruled out. The existence of contaminants was also suggested by the presence of a FLAG-containing 40 kDa polypeptide, which displayed no reactivity with specific antibodies nor incorporation of <sup>32</sup>P in the phosphorylation assays (Fig. 4A and 5A). To precisely identify the polypeptide harboring the protein kinase activity, we performed *in vitro* kinase renaturation assays after SDS-PAGE and Western-blotted (Fig. 6). We successfully combined the use of specific antibodies (lane 1) and

autoradiographic detection of *in situ* <sup>32</sup>P-incorporation (lane 2), and identified the 89 kDa rGPBP material as the primary polypeptide harboring the Ser/Thr kinase activity. The lack of <sup>32</sup>P-incorporation in the rGPBP-derived products, as well as in the 40 kDa contaminant, further supports the specificity of the renaturation assays and locates the kinase activity to the 89 kDa polypeptide. Recently, it has been shown that traces of protein kinases intimately associated with a polypeptide can be released from the blot membrane, bind to, and phosphorylate the polypeptide during the labeling step (28). To assess this possibility in our system, we performed renaturation studies using a small piece of membrane containing the 89 kDa polypeptide, either alone or together with membrane pieces representing the different regions of the blot lane. We observed similar <sup>32</sup>P-incorporation at the 89 kDa polypeptide regardless of the co-incubated pieces (not shown), indicating that if there are co-purified protein kinases in our sample they are not phosphorylating the 89 kDa polypeptide in the renaturation assays unless they co-migrate. Co-migration does not appear to be a concern, however, since rGPBP deletion mutants (GPBPΔ26 and R3; see below) displaying different mobilities also have kinase activities and could be similarly in-blot renatured (not shown).

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Immunohistochemical localization of the novel kinase-To investigate GPBP expression in human tissues we performed immunohistochemical studies using specific polyclonal (Fig.7) or monoclonal antibodies (not shown). Although GPBP is widely expressed in human tissues, it shows tissue and cell-specificity. In kidney, the major expression is found at the tubule epithelial cells and the glomerular mesangial cells and podocytes. At the lung alveolus, the antibodies display a linear pattern suggestive of a basement membrane localization, along with staining of pneumocytes. Liver shows low expression in the parenchyma, but high expression in biliary ducts. Expression in the central nervous system is observed in the white matter, but not in the neurons of the brain. In testis, a high expression in the spermatogonium contrasts with the lack of expression in Sertoli cells. The adrenal gland shows a higher level of expression in cortical cells versus the medullar. In the pancreas, GPBP is preferentially expressed in Langerhans islets versus the exocrine moiety. In prostate, GPBP is expressed in the epithelial cells but not in the stroma (Fig. 7). Other locations with high expression of GPBP are striated muscle, epithelial cells of intestinal tract, and Purkinje cells of the cerebellum (not shown). In general, in tissues where GPBP is highly expressed the staining pattern is mainly diffuse cytosolic. However in certain locations there is, in addition, an important staining reinforcement at the nucleus (spermatogonium), at the plasma membrane (pneumocyte,

hepatocyte, prostate epithelial cells, white matter) or at the extracellular matrix (alveolus) (Fig. 7).

#### **DISCUSSION**

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Our data show that GPBP is a novel, non-conventional serine/threonine kinase. We also present evidence that GPBP discriminates between human and bovine GP antigens, and targets the phosphorylatable region of human GP antigen in vitro. Several lines of evidence indicate that the 89 kDa polypeptide is the only kinase in the affinity purified rGPBP. First, we found no differences in auto- or trans-phosphorylation among rGPBP samples purified in the presence of 150 mM, 0.5 M, 1 M or 2 M salt (not shown), suggesting that rGPBP does not carry intimately bound kinases. Second, there is no FLAG-containing, yeast-derived kinase in our samples, since material purified using GPBP-specific antibodies shows no differences in phosphorylation (not shown). Third, a deletion mutant (GPBP\Delta26; see below) displays reduced auto- and transphosphorylation activities (not shown), demonstrating that the 89 kD polypeptide is the only portion of the rGPBP with the ability to carry out phosphate transfer.

Although GPBP is not homologous to other non-conventional kinases, they share some structural features including an N-terminal α-helix coiled-coil (26, 27), serine-rich motifs (24), high phosphoamino acids content (27), bipartite nuclear localization signal (27), and the absence of a typical nucleotide or ATP binding motif (24, 27).

Immunohistochemistry studies show that GPBP is a cytosolic polypeptide also found in the nucleus, associated with the plasma membrane and likely at the extracellular matrix associated with the basement membrane, indicating that it contains the structural requirements to reach all these destinations. The nuclear localization signal and the PH domain confer to it the potential to reach the nucleus and the cell membrane, respectively (17, 29, 30). Although GPBP does not contain the structural requirements to be exported, the 5'-end untranslated region of its mRNA includes an upstream ORF of 130 residues with an in-frame stop codon at the beginning (Fig. 1). A mRNA editing process inserting a single base pair (U) would generate an operative in-frame start site and an ORF of 754-residues containing an export signal immediately downstream of the edited Met (not shown). Polyclonal antibodies against a synthetic peptide representing part of this hypothetical extra-sequence (PRSARCQARRRRGGRTSS (SEQ ID NO:33)) display a linear vascular reactivity in human tissues suggestive of an extracellular basement membrane localization (data not shown).

Alternatively, a splicing phenomenon could generate transcripts with additional unidentified exon(s) that would provide the structural requirements for exportation. The multiple cellular localization, the high content in PTyr, and the lack of tyrosine kinase activity in vitro, suggest that GPBP is itself the target of specific tyrosine kinase(s) and therefore likely involved in specific signaling cascade(s).

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As discussed above, specific serine phosphorylation, as well as pre-mRNA alternative splicing, are associated with the biology of several autoantigens, including the GP antigen, acetylcholine receptor and myelin basic protein (MBP) (4). The latter is suspected to be the major antigen in multiple sclerosis (MS), another exclusively human autoimmune disease in which the immune system targets the white matter of the central nervous system. GP disease and MS are human disorders that display a strong association with the same HLA class II haplotype (HLA DRB1\*1501)(32, 33). This, along with the recent report of death by GP disease of a MS patient carrying this HLA specificity (34), supports the existence of common pathogenic events in these human disorders.

Phosphorylation of specific serines has been shown to change intracellular proteolysis (35-40). Conceivably, alterations in protein phosphorylation can affect processing and peptide presentation, and thus mediate autoimmunity. GP antigen-derived peptide presentation by the HLA-DR15 depends more on processing than on preferences of relatively indiscriminate DR15 molecules (41), suggesting that if processing is influenced by abnormal phosphorylation, the resulting peptides would likely be presented by this HLA. Our more recent data indicate that in both the GP and MBP systems, the production of alternative splicing products serves to regulate the phosphorylation of specific and structurally homologous PKA sites, suggesting that this or a closely related kinase is the *in vivo* phosphorylating enzyme. Alterations in the degree of antigen phosphorylation, caused either by an imbalance in alternative products, or by the action of an intruding kinase that deregulates phosphorylation of the same motifs, could lead to an autoimmune response in predisposed individuals. rGPBP phosphorylates the human GP antigen at a major PKA phosphorylation site in an apparently unregulated fashion, since the presence of specific alternative products of the GP antigen did not affect phosphorylation of the primary antigen by GPBP (not shown).

Although GPBP is ubiquitously expressed, in certain organs and tissues it shows a preference for cells and tissue structures that are target of common autoimmune responses: the Langerhans cells (type I diabetes); the white matter of the central nervous system (multiple sclerosis); the biliary ducts (primary biliary cirrhosis); the cortical cells of the adrenal gland (Addison disease); striated muscle cells (myasthenia gravis); spermatogonium (male infertility);

Purkinje cells of the cerebellum (paraneoplasic cerebellar degeneration syndrome); and intestinal epithelial cells (pernicious anemia, autoimmune gastritis and enteritis). All the above observations point to this novel kinase as an attractive candidate to be considered when envisioning a model for human autoimmune disease.

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# Example 2: GPBP Alternative Splicing

Here we report the existence of two isoforms of GPBP that are generated by alternative splicing of a 78-base pair (bp) long exon that encodes a 26-residue serine-rich motif. Both isoforms, GPBP and GPBPΔ26, exist as high molecular aggregates that result from polypeptide self-aggregation. The presence of the 26-residue peptide in the polypeptide chain results in a molecular species that self-interacts more efficiently and forms aggregates with higher specific activity. Finally, we present evidences supporting the observation that GPBP is implicated in human autoimmune pathogenesis.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS.

### Synthetic polymers:

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NO:42).

Peptides. GPpep1, KGKRGDSGSPATWTTRGFVFT (SEQ ID NO:26), is described in Example 1. GPBPpep1, PYSRSSSMSSIDLVSASDDVHRFSSQ (SEQ ID NO:14), representing residues 371-396 of GPBP was synthesized by Genosys.

Oligonucleotides. The following oligonucleotides were synthesized by Life Technologies, Inc., 5' to 3': ON-GPBP-11m, G CGG GAC TCA GCG GCC GGA TTT TCT (SEQ ID NO:34); ON-GPBP-15m, AC AGC TGG CAG AAG AGA C (SEQ ID NO:35); ON-GPBP-20c, C ATG GGT AGC TTT TAA AG (SEQ ID NO; 36); ON-GPBP-22m, TA GAA GAA CAG TCA CAG AGT GAA AAG G (SEQ ID NO:37); ON-GPBP-53c, GAATTC GAA CAA AAT AGG CTT TC (SEQ ID NO:38); ON-GPBP-56m, CCC TAT AGT CGC TCT TC (SEQ ID NO:39); ON-GPBP-57c, CTG GGA GCT GAA TCT GT (SEQ ID NO:40); ON-GPBP-62c, GTG GTT CTG CAC CAT CTC TTC AAC (SEQ ID NO:41); ON-GPBP-Δ26, CA CAT AGA TTT GTC CAA AAG GTT GAA GAG ATG GTG CAG AAC (SEQ ID

Reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain rection (RT-PCR). Total RNA was prepared from different control and GP tissues as described in (15). Five micrograms of total RNA was

retrotranscribed using Ready-To-Go You-Prime First-Strand beads (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) and 40 pmol of ON-GPBP-53c. The corresponding cDNA was subjected to PCR using the pairs of primers ON-GPBP-11m/ON-GPBP-53c or ON-GPBP-15m/ON-GPBP-62c. The identity of the products obtained with 15m-62c was further confirmed by Alu I restriction. To specifically amplify GPBP transcripts, PCR was performed using primers ON-GPBP-15m/ON-GPBP-57c.

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Northern hybridization studies. Pre-made human multiple-tissue and tumor cell-line Northern Blots (CLONTECH) were probed with a cDNA containing the 78-bp exon present only in GPBP or with a cDNA representing both isoforms. The corresponding cDNAs were obtained by PCR using the pair of primers ON-GPBP-56m and ON-GPBP-57c using GPBP as a template, or with primers ON-GPBP-22m and ON-GPBP-20c, using GPBPΔ26 as a template. The resulting products were random-labeled and hybridized following the manufacturers' instructions.

Plasmid construction, expression and purification of recombinant proteins. The plasmid pHIL-FLAG-n4', used for recombinant expression of FLAG-tagged GPBP in *Pichia pastoris* has been described elsewhere (4). The sequence coding for the 78-bp exon was deleted by site-directed mutagenesis using ON-GPBP-Δ26 to generate the plasmid pHIL-FLAG-n4'Δ26. Expression and affinity-purification of recombinant GPBP and GPBPΔ26 was done as in (4). Gel-filtration HPLC. Samples of 250 μl were injected into a gel filtration PE-TSK-G4000SW HPLC column equilibrated with 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl. The material was eluted from the column at 0.5 ml/min, monitored at 220 nm and minute fractions collected.

In vitro phosphorylation assays. The auto-, trans-phosphorylation and in-blot renaturation studies were performed as in Example 1.

Antibodies and immunochemical techniques. Polyclonal antibodies were raised by in chicken against a synthetic peptide (GPBPpep1) representing the sequence coded by the 78-bp exon (Genosys). Egg yolks were diluted 1:10 in water, the pH adjusted to 5.0. After 6 hours at 4°C, the solution was clarified by centrifugation (25 min at 10000 x g at 4°C) and the antibodies precipitated by adding 20 % (w/v) of sodium sulfate at 20.000 x g, 20°. The pellets were dissolved in PBS (1 ml per yolk) and used for immunohistochemical studies. The production of antibodies against GPBP/GPBPΔ26 or against α3(IV)NC1 domain are discussed above (see also 4, 13).

Sedimentation velocity. Determination of sedimentation velocities were performed in an Optima XL-A analytical ultracentrifuge (Beckman Instruments Inc.), equipped with a VIS-UV scanner, using a Ti60 rotor and double sector cells of Epon-charcoal of 12 mm optical path-length. Samples of ca. 400 μl were centrifuged at 30,000 rpm at 20°C and radial scans at 220 nm were taken every 5 min. The sedimentation coefficients were obtained from the rate of movement of the solute boundary using the program XLAVEL (supplied by Beckman). Sedimentation equilibrium. Sedimentation equilibrium experiments were done as described above for velocity experiments with samples of 70 μl, and centrifuged at 8,000 rpm. The experimental concentration gradients at equilibrium were analyzed using the program EQASSOC (Beckman) to determine the corresponding weight average molecular mass. A partial specific volumes of 0.711 cm³/g for GPBP and 0.729 cm³/g for GPBPΔ26 were calculated from the corresponding amino acid compositions.

Physical methods and immunochemical techniques. SDS-PAGE and Western blotting were performed under reducing conditions as previously described (3). Immunohistochemistry studies were done on formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissues using the ABC peroxidase method (4) or on frozen human biopsies fixed with cold acetone using standard procedures for indirect immunofluorescence.

Two hybrid studies. Self-interaction studies were carried out in Saccharomyces cerevisiae (HF7c) using pGBT9 and pGAD424 (CLONTECH) to generate GAL4 binding and activation domain-fusion proteins, respectively. Interaction was assessed following the manufacture's recommendations.  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity was assayed with X-GAL (0.75 mg/ml) for in situ and with ortho-nitrophenyl  $\beta$ -D galactopyranoside (0.64 mg/ml) for the in-solution determinations.

### 25 **RESULTS**

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Identification of two spliced GPBP variants. To characterize the GPBP species in normal human tissues, we coupled reverse transcription to a polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) on total RNA from different tissues, using specific oligonucleotides that flank the full open reading frame of GPBP. A single cDNA fragment displaying lower size than expected was obtained from skeletal muscle-derived RNA (Fig.8A), and from kidney, lung, skin, or adrenal gland-derived RNA (not shown). By combining nested PCR re-amplifications and endonuclease restriction mapping, we determined that all the RT-PCR products corresponded to the same molecular species (not shown). We fully sequenced the 2.2-Kb of cDNA from

human muscle and found it identical to HeLa-derived material except for the absence of 78-nucleotides (positions 1519-1596), which encode a 26-residues motif (amino acids 371-396) (Fig. 8B). We therefore named this more common isoform of GPBP as GPBPΔ26.

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To investigate whether the 78-bp represent an exon skipped transcript during pre-mRNA processing, we used this cDNA fragment to probe a human-derived genomic library and we isolated a ~14-Kb clone. By combining Southern blot hybridization and PCR, the genomic clone was characterized and a contiguous DNA fragment of 12482-bp was fully sequenced (SEQ ID 25). The sequence contained (from 5' to 3'), 767-bp of intron sequence, a 93-bp exon, an 818-bp intron, the 78-bp exon sequence of interest, a 9650-bp intron, a 96-bp exon and a 980-bp intron sequence (Fig. 8C). The exon-intron boundaries determined by comparing the corresponding DNA and cDNA sequences meet the canonical consensus for 5' and 3' splice sites (Fig 8C) (5), thus confirming the exon nature of the 78-bp sequence. The GPBP gene was localized to chromosome 5q13 by fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) using the genomic clone as a probe (not shown).

The relative expression of GPBP in human-derived specimens was assessed by Northern blot analysis, using either the 78-bp exon or a 260-bp cDNA representing the flanking sequence of 78-bp (103-bp 5' and 157-bp 3') present in both GPBP and GPBPΔ26 (Fig. 9). The 78-bp containing the molecular species of interest were preferably expressed in striated muscle (both skeletal and heart) and brain, and poorly expressed in placenta, lung and liver. In contrast to GPBPΔ26, the GPBP was expressed at very low levels in kidney, pancreas and cancer cell lines.

All the above indicates that GPBP is expressed at low levels in normal human tissues, and that the initial lack of detection by RT-PCR of GPBP can be attributed to a preferential amplification of the more abundant GPBPΔ26. Indeed, the cDNA of GPBP could be amplified from human tissues (skeletal muscle, lung, kidney, skin and adrenal gland) when the specific RT-PCR amplifications were done using 78-bp exon-specific oligonucleotides (not shown). This also suggests that GPBPΔ26 mRNA is the major transcript detected in Northern blot studies when using the cDNA probe representing both GPBP and GPBPΔ26.

Recombinant expression and functional characterization of GPBP $\Delta 26$ . To investigate whether the absence of the 26-residue serine-rich motif would affect the biochemical properties of GPBP, we expressed and purified both isoforms (rGPBP and rGPBP $\Delta 26$ ), and assessed their auto- and trans-phosphorylation activities (Fig. 10). As reported above for rGPBP (see also 4), rGPBP $\Delta 26$  is purified as a single major polypeptide

and several related minor products (Fig. 10 A). However, the number and relative amounts of the derived products vary compared to rGPBP, and they display M, on SDS-PAGE that cannot be attributed simply to the 26-residue deletion. This suggests that the 26-residue motif has important structural and functional consequences that could account for the reduced insolution auto- and trans-phosphorylation activities displayed by rGPBPA26 (Fig. 10B). Interestingly, the differences in specific activity shown in the in-solution assays were not evident when autophosphorylation was assessed in-blot after SDS-PAGE and renaturation, suggesting that the 26-residue motif likely has important functional consequences at the quaternary structure level. Renaturation studies further showed that phosphate transfer activities reside in the major polypeptides representing the proposed open reading frames, and are not detectable in derived minor products.

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rGPBP and rGPBP-26 exist as very active high molecular weight aggregates. Gel filtration analysis of affinity-purified rGPBP or rGPBPΔ26 yielded two chromatographic peaks (I and II), both displaying higher MW than expected for the individual molecular species, as determined by SDS-PAGE studies (89 kDa and 84 kDa, respectively ) (Fig. 11). The bulk of the recombinant material eluted as a single peak between the 158 kDa and the 669 kDa molecular weight markers (peak II), while limited amounts of rGPBP and only traces of rGPBPA26 eluted in peak I (>1000 kDa). Aliquots of fractions representing each chromatographic profile were subjected to SDS-PAGE and stained, or incubated in the presence of <sup>32</sup>P[y] ATP, and analyzed by immunoblot and autoradiography. Along with the major primary polypeptide, every chromatographic peak contained multiple derived products of higher or lower sizes indicating that the primary polypeptide associates to form high molecular weight aggregates that are stabilized by covalent and non-covalent bonds (not shown). The kinase activity also exhibited two peaks coinciding with the chromatographic profiles. However, peak I showed a much higher specific activity than peak II, indicating that these high molecular weight aggregates contained a much more active form of the kinase. Equal volumes of rGPBP fractions number 13 and 20 exhibited comparable phosphorylating activity, even though the protein content is approximately 20 times lower in fraction 13, as estimated by Western blot and Coomasie blue staining (Fig. 11A). The specific activities of rGPBP and rGPBPA26 at peak II are also different, and are consistent with the studies shown for the whole material, thus supporting the hypothesis that the presence of the 26-rediue serine-rich motif renders a more active kinase. These results also suggest that both rGPBP and rGPBPA26 exist as oligomers under native conditions, and that both high molecular

weight aggregate formation and specific activity are greatly dependent on the presence of the 26-residue serine-rich motif. Analytical centrifugation analysis of rGPBP revealed that peak I contained large aggregates (over  $10^7$  Da). Peak II of rGPBP contained a homogenous population of  $220 \pm 10$  kDa aggregates, likely representing trimers with a sedimentation coefficient of 11S. Peak II of rGPBP $\Delta$ 26 however consisted of a more heterogenous population that likely contains several oligomeric species. The main population (ca. 80%) displayed a weight average molecular mass of  $310 \pm 10$  kDa and a coefficient of sedimentation of 14S.

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GPBP and GPBPA26 self-interact in a yeast two-hybrid system. To assess the physiological relevance of the self-aggregation, and to determine the role of the 26-residue motif, we performed comparative studies using a two-hybrid interaction system in yeast. In this type of study, the polypeptides whose interaction is under study are expressed as a part of a fusion protein containing either the activation or the binding domains of the transcriptional factor GALA. An effective interaction between the two fusion proteins through the polypeptide under study would result in the reconstitution of the transcriptional activator and the subsequent expression of the two reporter genes, Lac Z and His3, allowing colony color detection and growth in a His-defective medium, respectively. We estimated the intensity of interactions by the growth-rate in histidine-defective medium, in the presence of different concentrations of a competitive inhibitor of the His3 gene product (3-AT), and a quantitative colorimetric liquid β-galactosidase assay. A representative experiment is presented in Fig. 12. When assaying GPBPΔ26 for self-interaction, a significant induction of the reporter genes was observed, while no expression was detectable when each fusion protein was expressed alone or with control fusion proteins. The insertion of the 26-residue motif in the polypeptide to obtain GPBP resulted in a notable increase in polypeptide interaction. All of the above data indicate that GPBPA26 self-associates in vivo, and that the insertion of the 26-residues into the polypeptide chain yields a more interactive molecular species.

GPBP is highly expressed in human but not in bovine and murine glomerulus and alveolus. We have shown that GPBP/GPBPΔ26 is preferentially expressed in human cells and tissues that are commonly targeted in naturally occurring autoimmune responses. To specifically investigate the expression of GPBP, we raised polyclonal antibodies against a synthetic peptide representing the 26-residue motif characteristic of this kinase isoform, and used it for immunohistochemical studies on frozen or formalin fixed paraffin embedded human tissues (Fig 13). In general, these antibodies showed more specificity than the

antibodies recognizing both isoforms for the tissue structures that are target of autoimmune responses such as the biliary ducts, the Langerhans islets or the white matter of the central nervous system (not shown). Nevertheless, the most remarkable finding was the presence of linear deposits of GPBP-selective antibodies around the small vessels in every tissue studied (A), suggesting that GPBP is associated with endothelial basement membranes. Consequently, at the glomerulus, the anti-GPBP antibodies displayed a vascular pattern closely resembling the glomerular basement membrane staining yielded either by monoclonal antibodies specifically recognizing the  $\alpha 3 (\text{IV}) \text{NC1}$  (compare 13B with 13C and 13D), or by circulating GP autoantibodies (compare 13E and 13F). These observations further supported the initial observation that GPBP is expressed in tissue structures targeted in natural autoimmune responses, suggesting that the expression of GPBP is a risk factor and makes the host tissue vulnerable to an autoimmune attack.

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To further assess this hypothesis, we investigated the presence of GPBP and GPBPA26 in the glomerulus of two mammals that naturally do not undergo GP disease compared to human (Fig. 14). GPBP-specific antibodies failed to stain the glomerulus of both bovine or murine specimens (compare 14A with 14B and 14C) while antibodies recognizing the N-terminal sequence common to both GPBP and GPBPA26 stained these structures in all three species, although with different distributions and intensities (14D-14F). In bovine renal cortex, GPBPA26 was expressed at a lower rate than in human, but showed similar tissue distribution. In murine samples, however, GPBPA26 displayed a tissue distribution closely resembling that of GPBP in human glomerulus. Similar results were obtained when studying the alveolus in the three different species (not shown). To rule out that the differences in antibody detection was due to primary structure differences rather than to a differential expression, we determined the corresponding primary structures in these two species by cDNA sequencing. Bovine and mouse GPBP (SEQ ID NOS:3-6 and 9-12) displayed an overall identity with human material of 97.9% and 96.6% respectively. Furthermore, the mouse 26-residue motif was identical to human while bovine diverged only in one residue. Finally, and similarly to human, we successfully amplified GPBP cDNA from mouse or bovine kidney total RNA using oligonucleotides specific for the corresponding 78-bp exons, indicating that GPBP is expressed at very low levels not detectable by immunochemical techniques.

GPBP is highly expressed in several autoimmune conditions. We analyzed several tissues from different GP patients by specific RT-PCR to assess GPBP/GPBPΔ26 mRNA

levels. As in control kidneys, the major expressed isoform in GP kidneys was GPBPΔ26. However, in the muscle of one of the patients, GPBP was preferentially expressed, whereas GPBPA26 was the only isoform detected in control muscle samples (Fig. 15 A). Since we did not have kidney samples from this particular patient, we could not assess GPBP/GPBPΔ26 expression in the corresponding target organ. For similar reasons, we could not assess GPBP/GPBPA26 levels in the muscle of the patients in which kidneys were studied. Muscle cells express high levels of GPBP/GPBPA26 (see Northern blot in Fig. 9), and they comprise the bulk of the tissue. In contrast, the expression of GPBP/GPBPA26 in the kidney was much less, and the glomerulus was virtually the only kidney structure expressing the GPBP isoform (see Fig. 13). The glomerulus is a relatively less abundant structure in kidney than the myocyte is in muscle, and the glomerulus is the structure targeted by immune attack in GP pathogenesis. These factors, together with the preferential amplification of the more abundant and shorter messages when performing RT-PCR studies, could account for the lack of detection of GPBP in both normal and GP kidneys, thus precluding the assessment of GPBP expression at the glomerulus during pathogenesis. Nevertheless, the increased levels of GPBP in a GP patient suggest that GPBP/GPBPA26 expression is altered during GP pathogenesis, and that augmented GPBP expression has a pathogenic significance in GP disease.

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To investigate the expression of GPBP and GPBPΔ26 in autoimmune pathogenesis, we studied cutaneous autoimmune processes and compared them with control samples representing normal skin or non-autoimmune dermatitis (Fig. 15). Control samples displayed a limited expression of GPBP in the most peripheral keratinocytes (15B, 15E), while keratinocytes expanding from stratum basale to corneum expressed abundant GPBP in skin affected by systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (15C, 15F) or lichen planus (15D, 15G). GPBP was preferentially expressed in cell surface structures that closely resembled the blebs previously described in cultured keratinocytes upon UV irradiation and apoptosis induction (6). In contrast, antibodies recognizing both GPBP and GPBPΔ26 yielded a diffuse cytosolic pattern through the whole epidermis in both autoimmune affected or control samples (not shown). These data indicate that in both control and autoimmune-affected keratinocytes, GPBPΔ26 was expressed at the cytosol and that the expression did not significantly vary during cell differentiation. In contrast, mature keratinocytes were virtually the only GPBP expressing cells. However, bleb formation and expression of GPBP was observed in the early stages of differentiation in epidermis affected by autoimmune responses (15C, 15D, 15F,

15G). This further supports previous observations indicating that aberrant apoptosis at the basal keratinocytes is involved in the pathogenesis of autoimmune processes affecting skin (7), and suggests that apoptosis and GPBP expression are linked in this human cell system.

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#### DISCUSSION

Alternative pre-mRNA splicing is a fundamental mechanism for differential gene expression that has been reported to regulate the tissue distribution, intracellular localization, and function of different protein kinases (8-11). In this regard, and closely resembling GPBP, B-Raf exists as multiple spliced variants, in which the presence of specific exons renders more interactive, efficient and oncogenic kinases (12).

Although it is evident that rGPBPA26 still bears the uncharacterized catalytic domain of this novel kinase, both auto- and trans-phosphorylating activities are greatly reduced when compared to rGPBP. Gel filtration and two hybrid experiments provide some insights into the mechanisms that underlie such a reduced phosphate transfer activity. About 1-2% of rGPBP is organized in very high molecular weight aggregates that display about one third of the phosphorylating activity of rGPBP, indicating that high molecular aggregation renders more efficient quaternary structures. Recombinant GPBPA26, with virtually no peak I material, consistently displayed a reduced kinase activity. However, aggregation does not seem to be the only mechanism by which the 26-residues increases specific activity, since the rGPBPA26 material present in peak II also shows a reduced phosphorylating activity when compared to homologous fractions of rGPBP. One possibility is that rGPBP-derived aggregates display higher specific activities because of quaternary structure strengthening caused by the insertion of the 26-residue motif. The oligomers are kept together mainly by very strong noncovalent bonds, since the bulk of the material appears as a single polypeptide in non-reducing SDS-PAGE, and the presence of either 8 M urea or 6 M guanidine had little effect on chromatographic gel filtration profiles (not shown). How the 26-residue motif renders a more strengthened and active structure remains to be clarified. Conformational changes induced by the presence of an exon encoded motif that alter the activation status of the kinase have been proposed for the linker domain of the Src protein (24) and exons 8b and 10 of B-Raf (12). Alternatively, the 26-residue motif may provide the structural requirements such as residues whose phosphorylation may be necessary for full activation of GPBP.

We have reported (13) that the primary structure of the GP antigen ( $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1) is the target of a complex folding process yielding multiple conformers. Isolated conformers are non-minimum energy structures specifically activated by phosphorylation for supramolecular aggregation and likely quaternary structure formation. In GP patients, the  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 shows conformational alterations and a reduced ability to mediate the disulfide stabilization of the collagen IV network. The GP antibodies, in turn, demonstrate stronger affinity towards the patient  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 conformers, indicating that conformationally altered material caused the autoimmune response. Therefore, it seems that in GP disease an early alteration in the conforming process of the  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 could generate altered conformers for which the immune system is not tolerant, thus mediating the autoimmune response.

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Other evidence (Raya et al., unpublished results) indicates that phosphorylation is the signal that drives the folding of the \alpha3(IV)NC1 into non-minimum energy ends. In this scenario, three features of the human  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  system are of special pathogenic relevance when compared to the corresponding antigen systems from species that, like bovine or murine, do not undergo spontaneous GP disease. First, the N-terminus of the human 03(IV)NC1 contains a motif that is phosphorylatable by PKA and also by GPBP (see above, and also 2-4). Second, the human gene generates multiples alternative products by alternative exon splicing (14,15). Exon skipping generates alternative products with divergent C-terminal ends that up-regulate the in vitro PKA phosphorylation of the primary \(\alpha 3(IV)NC1\) product (See below Example 3). Third, the human GPBP is expressed associated with glomerular and alveolar basement membranes. the two main targets in GP disease. The phosphorylation-dependent conforming process is also a feature of non-pathogenic NC1 domains (13), suggesting that the phosphorylatable N-terminus, the alternative splicing diversification, and the expression of GPBP at the glomerular and alveolar basement membranes, are all exclusively human features that place the conformation process of  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  in a vulnerable condition. The four independent GP kidneys studied expressed higher levels of GP antigen alternative products (15; Bernal and Saus, unpublished results), and an augmented expression of GPBP were found in a GP patient (see above). Both increased levels of alternative GP antigen products and GPBP are expected to have consequences in the phosphorylation-dependent conformational process of the \alpha3(IV)NC1, and therefore with pathogenic potential.

GPBP is highly expressed in skin targeted by natural autoimmune responses. In the epidermis, GPBP is associated with cell surface blebs characteristic of the apoptosis-mediated differentiation process that keratinocytes undergo during maturation from basale to corneum

strata (22, 23). Keratinocytes from SLE patients show a remarkably heightened sensitivity to UV-induced apoptosis (6, 18, 20), and augmented and premature apoptosis of keratinocytes has been reported to exist in SLE and dermatomyositis (7). Consistently, we found apoptotic bodies expanding from basal to peripheral strata of the epidermis in several skin autoimmune conditions including discoid lupus (not shown), SLE and lichen planus. Autoantigens, and modified versions thereof are clustered in the cell surface blebs of apoptotic keratinocytes (6,18,20). Apoptotic surface blebs present autoantigens (21), and likely release modified versions to the circulation (16-20). It has been suggested that the release of modified autoantigens from apoptotic bodies could be the immunizing event that mediates systemic autoimmune responses mediating SLE and scleroderma (18,19).

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Our evidence indicates that both GPBP and GPBPA26 are able to act in vitro as protein kinases, with GPBP being a more active isoform than GPBPΔ26. Furthermore, recombinant material representing GPBP or GPBPA26 purified from yeast or from human 293 cells contained an associated proteolytic activity that specifically degrades the α3(IV)NC1 domain (unpublished results). The proteolytic activity operates on α3(IV)NC1 produced in an eukaryotic expression system, but not on recombinant material produced in bacteria (unpublished results), indicating that  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  processing has some conformational or post-translational requirements not present in prokaryotic recombinant material. Finally, it has been reported that several autoantigens undergo phosphorylation and degradation in apoptotic keratinocytes (20). While not being limited to an exact mechanism, we propose, in light of all of the above data, that the machinery assembling GPBP at the apoptotic blebs likely performs a complex modification of the autoantigens that includes phosphorylation, conformational changes and degradation. Accordingly, recombinant protein representing autoantigens in SLE (P1 ribosomal phosphoprotein and Sm-D1 small nuclear ribonucleoproteins) and in dermatomyositis (hystidil-tRNA synthetase) were in vitro substrates of GPBP (unpublished results).

The down-regulation in cancer cell lines of GPBP, suggest that the cell machinery harboring GPBP/GPBP $\Delta$ 26 is likely involved in signaling pathways inducing programmed cell death. The corresponding apoptotic pathway could be up regulated during autoimmune pathogenesis to cause an altered antigen presentation in individuals carrying specific MHC haplotypes; and down regulated during cell transformation to prevent autoimmune attack to the transformed cells during tumor growth.

# References for Example 2

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# Example 3. Regulation of Human Autoantigen Phosphorylation by Exon Splicing

### INTRODUCTION

In GP disease, the immune system attack is mediated by autoantibodies against the non-collagenous C-terminal domain (NC1) of the α3 chain of collagen IV (the GP antigen) (1). The N-terminus of the human α3(IV)NC1 contains a highly divergent and hydrophilic region with a unique structural motif, KRGDS<sup>9</sup> (SEQ ID NO:63) that harbors a cell adhesion signal as an integral part of a functional phosphorylation site for type A protein kinases (2,3). Furthermore, the gene region encoding the human GP antigen characteristically generates multiple mRNAs by alternative exon splicing (4,5). The alternative products diverge in the C-terminal ends and all but one share the N-terminal KRGDS<sup>9</sup> (SEQ ID NO:63) (4,5).

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an exclusive human neurological disease characterized by the presence of inflamatory demyelization plaques at the central nervous system. (6). Several evidences indicate that this disease is caused by an autoimmune attack mediated by cytotoxic T cells towards specific components of the white matter including the myelin basic protein (MBP) (7, 8). In humans, the MBP gene generates four products (MBP, MBPΔII, MBPΔV and MBPΔII/V) that result from alternative exon splicing during pre-mRNA processing (9). Among these, MBPΔII is the more abundant form in the mature central nervous system, while MBP form containing all the exons is virtually absent (9).

Several biological similarities exist between the autoimme responses mediating GP disease and MS, namely: 1) both are human exclusive diseases and typically initiate after a viral flu-like disease; 2) a strong linkage exists to the same haplotype of the HLA-DR region of the class II MHC; 3) several products are generated by alternative splicing; and 4) the death of a MS patient by GP disease has recently been reported (10).

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## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Synthetic polymers: GPAIII derived peptide, QRAHGQDLDALFVKVLRSP (SEQ ID NO:43) and GPAIII/IV/V derived peptide, QRAHGQDLESLFHQL (SEQ ID NO:44) were

synthesized using either Boc- (MedProbe) or Fmoc- (Chiron, Lipotec) chemistry.

# Plasmid construction and recombinant expression.

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GP derived material: The constructs representing the different GP-spliced forms were obtained by subcloning the cDNAs used elsewhere to express the corresponding recombinant proteins (5) into the BamHI site of a modified pET15b vector, in which the extraneous vector-derived amino-terminal sequence except for the initiation Met was eliminated. The extra sequence was removed by cutting the vector with NcoI and Bam HI, filling-in of the free ends with Klenow, and re-ligation. This resulted in the reformation of both restriction sites and placed the BamHI site immediately downstream of the codon for the amino-terminal Met.

The recombinant proteins representing GP or GPΔV (SEQ ID NO:46) were purified by precipitation (5). Bacterial pellets containing the recombinant proteins representing GPΔIII (SEQ ID NO:48) or GPΔIII/IV/V (SEQ ID NO:50) were dissolved by 8 M urea in 40 mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8 and sonication. After centrifugation at 40,000 x g the supernatants were passed through a 0.22 μm filter and applied to resource Q column for FPLC. The effluent was acidified to pH 6 with HCl and applied to a resource S column previously equilibrated with 40 mM MES pH 6 for a second FPLC purification. The material in the resulting effluent was used for in vitro phosphorylation.

MBP-derived material: cDNA representing human MBPΔII (SEQ ID NO:51) was obtained by RT-PCR using total RNA from central nervous system. The cDNA representing human MBP was a generous gift from C. Campagnoni (UCLA). Both fragments were cloned into a modified version of pHIL-D2 (Invitrogen) containing a 6xHis-coding sequence at the C-terminus to generate pHIL-MBPΔII-His and pHIL-MBP-His, respectively. These plasmids were used for recombinant expression in *Pichia pastoris* as described in (11). Recombinant proteins were purified using immobilized metal affinity chromatography (TALON resin, CLONTECH) under denaturant conditions (8M urea) and eluted with 300 mM imidazole following manufacturers' instructions. The affinity-purified material was then renatured by dilution into 80 volumes of 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 10 mM CHAPS, 400 mM NaCl, 2 mM DTT, and concentrated 50 times by ultrafiltration through a YM10-type membrane (AMICON). The Ser to Ala mutants were produced by site-directed mutagenesis over native sequence-containing constructs using transformer mutagenesis kit from CLONTECH and the resulting proteins were similarly produced.

Phosphorylation studies. Phosphorylation studies were essentially done as described above (see also 3 and 11). In some experiments, the substrates were in-blot renatured and then, phosphorylated for 30 min at room temperature by overlaying 100 µl of phosphorylation buffer containing 0.5 µg of rGPBP. Digestion with V8 endopeptidase and immunoprecipitation were performed as described in (3).

Antibody production. Synthetic peptides representing the C-terminal divergent ends of GP□III or GP□III/IV/V comprised in SEQ ID NO:43 or SEQ ID NO:44 respectively were conjugated to a cytochrome C, BSA or ovoalbumine using a glutaraldehyde coupling standard procedure. The resulting protein conjugates were used for mouse immmunization to obtain polyclonal antibodies specific for GPΔIII and monoclonal antibodies specific for GPΔIII/IV/V (Mab153). To obtain monoclonal antibodies specific for GPΔV (Mab5A) mouse were immunized using recombinant bacterial protein representing the corresponding alternative form comprising the SEQ ID NO:50. The production of monoclonal (M3/1, P1/2) or polyclonal (anti-GPpep1) antibodies against SEQ ID NO: 26 which represents the N-terminal region of the GP alternative forms have been previously described (3,5).

# Boc-based peptide synthesis.

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Assembling. The peptide was assembled by stepwise solid phase synthesis using a Boc-Benzyl strategy. The starting resin used was Boc-Pro-PAM resin (0.56 meq/g, batch R4108). The deprotection /coupling procedure used was: TFA (1x1min) TFA (1x 3 min) DCM (flow flash) Isopropylalcohol (1x 30 sec) DMF (3 x 1 min) COUPLING/DMF (1 x10 min) DMF (1x1 min) COUPLING/DMF (1x 10 min) DMF (2x 1min) DCM (1x 1min). For each step 10 ml per gram of peptide-resin were used. The coupling of all amino acids (fivefold excess) was performed in DMF in the presence of BOP, Hobt and DIEA. For the synthesis the following side-chain protecting groups were used: benzyl for serine; 2 chlorobenzyloxycarbonyl for lysine; cyclohexyl for aspartic and glutamic acid; tosyl for histidine and arginine.

Cleavage. The peptide was cleaved from the resin and fully deprotected by a treatment with liquid Hydrogen Fluoride (HF): Ten milliliters of HF per gram of peptide resin were added and the mixture kept at 0° C for 45 min in the presence of p-cresol as scavengers. After evaporation of the HF, the crude reaction mixture is washed with ether, dissolved in TFA, precipitated with ether and dried.

Purification. Stationary phase: Silica C18, 15 μm, 120 A; Mobile phase: solvent A: water 0.1% TFA and solvent B: acetonitrile /A, 60/40 (v/v); Gradient: linear from 20 to 60%

B in 30 min; Flow rate: 40 ml/min; and detection was U.V (210 nm). Fractions with a purity higher than 80% were pooled and lyophilized. Control of purity and identity was performed by analytical HPLC and ES/MS. The final product had 88% purity and an experimental molecular weight of 2192.9.

### Fmoc-based peptide synthesis.

Assembling. The peptides were synthesized by stepwise linear solid phase on Proclorotrityl-resin (0.685 meq/g) with standard Fmoc/tBu chemistry. The deprotection /coupling procedure used was: Fmoc aa (0.66 g) HOBt (0.26 g) DIPCDI (0.28 ml) for 40 min following a control by Kaiser test. If the test was positive the time was extended until change to negative. Then DMF (31 min), piperidine/DMF 20% (11 min) piperidine/DMF 20% (15 min) and DMF (41 min). Side chain protectors were: Pmc (pentamethylcromane sulfonyl) for arginine, Bcc (tert-butoxycarbonyl) for lysine, tBu (tert-butyl) for aspartic acid and for serine and Trl (trityl) for histidine.

Cleavage. The peptide was cleaved and fully deprotected by treatment cleavage with TFA/water 90/10. Ten milliliters of TFA solution per gram of resin were added. Water acts as scavenger. After two hours, resin was filtered and the resulting solution was precipitated five times with cold diethylether. The final precipitated was dried.

Purification. Stationary phase: Kromasil C18 10 μm; Mobile phase: solvent A: water 0.1% TFA and solvent B: acetonitrile 0.1% TFA; Isocratic: 28% B; Flow rate: 55 ml/min; Detection: 220 nm. Fractions with the higher purity were pooled and lyophilized, and a second HPLC purification round performed. Control of purity and identity was performed by analytical HPLC and ES/MS. The final product had 97% purity and an experimental molecular weight of 2190.9.

## 25 **RESULTS**

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Regulation of the phosphorylation of the human GP antigen by alternative splicing. We produced bacterial recombinant proteins representing the primary antigen (GP) or the individual alternative products GP $\Delta$ V (SEQ ID NO:46), GP $\Delta$ III (SEQ ID NO:48) and GP $\Delta$ III/IV/V (SEQ ID NO:50), and we tested their ability to be phosphorylated by PKA (Figure 16, left panel ). Using standard ATP concentrations (150  $\mu$ M), all four recombinant antigens were phosphorylated but to very different extents. The alternative forms incorporated <sup>32</sup>P more efficiently than the primary GP antigen, suggesting that they are better substrates. Because these antigens are expected to be in the extracellular compartment, we also assayed their

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phosphorylatability with more physiological ATP concentrations (0.1-0.5 µM). Under these conditions, the differences in <sup>32</sup>P incorporation between the primary and alternative products were more evident, indicating that at low ATP concentrations the primary GP antigen was a very poor substrate for the kinase. Among the three PKA phosphorylation sites present in the GP antigen, the N-terminal Ser<sup>9</sup> and Ser<sup>26</sup> are the major ones, and are common to all the alternative products assayed (3,5). Accordingly, the differences observed in phosphorylation for the full polypeptides also existed among the individual N-terminal regions, as determined after specific V8 digestion and immunoprecipitation (not shown). This strongly suggests that differences in phosphorylation might be due to the presence of different C-terminal sequences in the alternative products. Since GPAIII and GPAIII/IV/V displayed significantly higher <sup>32</sup>P incorporation rates than GPAV, and they have shorter divergent C-terminal regions (5), we used synthetic peptides individually representing these C-terminal sequences (SEO ID NO: 43, SEO ID NO:44) to further examine their regulatory roles in the in vitro phosphorylation of the native antigen. Collagen IV is a trimeric molecule comprised of three interwoven achains. In basement membranes, two collagen IV molecules assemble through their NC1 domains to yield a hexameric NC1 structure that can be solubilized by bacterial collagenase digestion (1). Dissociation of the hexamer structure releases the GP antigen in monomeric and disulfiderelated dimeric forms (1). For the following set of experiments, we carried out phosphorylations in the presence of low, extracellular-like ATP concentrations using both monomeric or hexameric native GP antigen (Figure 16, right panel ). The presence of each specific peptide but not control peptides (not shown) induced the phosphorylation of a single polypeptide displaying an apparent MW of 22 kDa. By specific V8 digestion and immunoprecipitation, the corresponding polypeptide has been identified as the 22 kDa conformer of the \alpha3(IV)NC1. identified below as the best substrate for the PKA.

Regulation of the phosphorylation of the MBP by alternative splicing. The MBP contains at its N terminal region two PKA phosphorylation sites (Ser<sup>8</sup>, Ser<sup>57</sup>) that are structurally similar to the N terminus site (Ser<sup>9</sup>) present in GP antigen products (Fig 17). The Ser<sup>8</sup> site present in all the MBP proteins is located in a similar position than the Ser<sup>9</sup> in the GP-derived polypeptides. In addition, in the MBP and GPAIII Ser<sup>8</sup> and Ser<sup>9</sup> respectively are at a similar distance in the primary structures of a highly homologous motif present in the corresponding exon II (bend arrow in Fig 17). The GPAIII-derived motif coincides with the C terminal divergent region that up-regulates PKA phosphorylation of Ser<sup>9</sup> in the GP antigen system (Fig. 16). The regulatory-like sequence in MBP is located at exon II and its presence in the final

products depends on an alternative exon splicing mechanism. Therefore, the MBP motified by structural comparison to GPAIII may be also regulating PKA phosphorylation of Ser<sup>8</sup>. We produced recombinant proteins representing MBP and MBPAII (SEQ ID NO:54) and the corresponding Ser to Ala mutants to knock-out each of the two PKA phosphorylation sites (Ser<sup>8</sup> and Ser<sup>57</sup>) present in exon I. Subsequently, we assessed its <u>in vitro</u> phosphorylation by PKA (Fig. 18). MBPAII was a better substrate than MBP, and Ser<sup>8</sup> was the major phosphorylation site, indicating that, similarly to GP antigenic system, alternative exon splicing regulates the PKA phosphorylation of specific sites located at the N-terminal region common to all the MBP-derived alternative forms.

In similar experiments assessing GPBP phosphorylation of the recombinant MBP proteins, GPBP preferentially phosphorylated MBP, while little phosphorylation of MBPAII was observed (Fig. 19). Furthermore, recombinant Ser to Ala mutants displayed no significant reduction in <sup>32</sup>P incorporation, indicating that GPBP phosphorylates MBP/MBPAII in an opposite way than PKA, and that these two kinases do not share major phosphorylation sites in MBP proteins.

From all these data we concluded that in the MBP system, alternative splicing regulates the phosphorylation of specific serines by either PKA or GPBP.

Synthetic peptides representing the C terminal region of GPΔIII influence GPBP phosphorylation. To assess the effect of the C terminal region of GPΔIII on GPBP activity, peptides representing this region were synthesized using two different chemistries (Boc or Fmoc), and separately added to a phosphorylation mixture containing GPBP (Fig. 20). Bocbased synthetic peptides positively influenced GPBP autophosphorylation while Fmocbased inhibited GPBP autophosphorylation, suggesting that the regulatory sequences derived from the alternative products in either GP and MBP antigenic systems can influence the kinase activity of GPBP.

### **DISCUSSION**

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We show (here and in the following examples) that the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain undergoes a complex structural diversification by two different mechanism: 1) alternative splicing (4,5) and 2) conformational isomerization of the primary product. Both mechanisms generate products that are distinguished by PKA, indicating that PKA phosphorylation is a critical event in the biology of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain. Phosphorylation guides at least in part the folding, but also the supramolecular assembly of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain in the collagen IV

network (below). Altered conformers of the α3(IV)NC1 lead the autoimmune response mediating GP disease (See the following examples), suggesting that an alteration in antigen phosphorylation could be the primary event in the onset of the disease. Accordingly, we have found increased expression levels of GPΔIII in several GP kidneys (4 and Bernal and Saus, unpublished results), and an increased expression of GPBP has been detected in another Goodpasture patient (Fig. 15). Both increased expression of alternative GP antigen products and of GPBP are expected to have consequences in the phosphorylation steady state of α3(IV)NC1, and therefore in the corresponding conformational process. The discrimination among the different structural products by PKA strongly suggests that this kinase, or another structurally similar kinase, is involved in the physiological antigen conforming process, and that antigen phosphorylation by GPBP has a pathogenic significance. In pathogenesis, GPBP could be an intruding kinase, interfering in the phosphorylation-dependent conforming process. Accordingly, GPBP is expressed in tissue structures that are targeted by natural autoimmune responses, and an increased expression of GPBP is associated with several autoimmune conditions (See examples 1 and 2 above).

An alternative splicing mechanism also regulates the PKA phosphorylation of specific serines in the MBP antigenic system. MBP is also a substrate for GPBP suggesting that GPBP may play a pathogenic role in multiple sclerosis, and other autoimmune responses.

All of the above data identify GPBP as a potential target for therapeutics in autoimmune disease. In Fig 20, we show that synthetic peptides representing the C terminal region of GPAIII (SEQ ID NO:43) modulate the action of GPBP in vitro, and therefore we identified this and related sequences as peptide-based compounds to modulate the activity of GPBP in vivo. The induction of GP antigen phosphorylation by PKA was achieved when using Boc-based peptides, but not when using similar Fmoc-based peptides. Furthermore, Boc- but not Fmoc-based peptides were in vitro substrates of PKA (not shown), indicating that important structural differences exist between both products. Since both products displayed no significant differences in mass spectrometry, one possibility is that the different deprotection procedure used may be responsible for conformational differences in the secondary structure that may be critical for biological activity. Accordingly, Boc-based peptide loses its ability to induce PKA upon long storage at low temperatures.

## **REFERENCES FOR EXAMPLE 3**

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## Example 4

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Here we show that the human  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain exists as multiple phosphorylation-dependent conformational isoforms (conformers) that are stabilized by disulfide bonds. We present evidence supporting that phosphorylation of Ser<sup>9</sup> can lead to the formation of  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers for which tolerance has not been established.

## Materials and Methods for Example 4

Production of native and recombinant NC1 material. Human collagen IV NC1 "hexamer" and "monomers" were prepared from renal cortex as previously described (21). The "monomers" were further analyzed by reverse-phase HPLC using a C18 column from Vydac and a 30-48% acetonitrile gradient developed during 36 min in the presence of 0.1% TFA. The most hydrophobic fractions containing α3(IV)NC1 domain with no detectable traces of other

chains, as assessed by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and individual  $\alpha(IV)$  chain specific antibodies, were pooled and concentrated (27-kDa). The more hydrophilic fractions, containing both  $\alpha$ 3 material and the other  $\alpha$  chains, were re-analyzed by reverse-phase HPLC using a C4 column from Vydac and a 24-44% isopropanol gradient developed during 36 min in the presence of 0.2% TFA. Fractions containing mainly  $\alpha$ 3, but also  $\alpha$ 4 and  $\alpha$ 5 chains, were pooled and concentrated (22-25-kDa).

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Recombinant FLAG-tagged α1(IV)NC1-α6(IV)NC1 (fα1-fα6) were prepared as reported in Ref. 22. A site-directed mutagenesis approach (Clontech) and the fα3 construct were used to obtain fα3Ala9 and fα3Asp9. The constructs were assessed by nucleotide sequencing, and used to generate stably transfected human kidney 293 (ATCC # CRL-1573) cell lines as described in Ref. 23. Individual clones secreting similar levels of protein to the culture media, as estimated by Western blot analysis, were further selected and used for comparative studies. For these purposes, the individual cell lines were grown in Dubelcco's modified Eagle's medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum. When the culture reached ~80% confluence, the serum-containing media was removed and cells were brought to quiescence in serum-free medium supplemented with Ham's F-12 nutrient mixture. After 24 hours, the media were changed, and the media of an additional period of 24 hours were separately collected, centrifuged to remove cell debris and analyzed by Western-blot using α3(IV)NC1 specific antibodies.

Physical, chemical and immunochemical methods. When indicated, SDS-electrophoresis was performed on a fusible acrylamide (National Diagnostics) following manufacturer instructions. After electrophoresis, the gel region between 21- and 30-kDa was split into eight horizontal slices of similar height. Each of these was further split in two, separately melted in the presence of reducing or non-reducing Laemmli sample buffer, and reanalyzed in SDS-PAGE for immunoblot purposes.

Otherwise indicated SDS-PAGE studies were carried out in the absence of a reducing agent and the immunoblots were performed following standard procedures using PVDF membranes (Millipore) and 27.5% methanol in the transfer buffer.

Reduction/Oxidation studies. In a standard assay, ~1 μg of recombinant human α3(IV)NC1 (fα3) in 25 mM β-glycerol phosphate (pH 7.0), 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 8 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> was incubated with or without 2 units of calf intestine alkaline phosphatase (Pharmacia). After 1 hour at 30°C, 5 mM MnCl<sub>2</sub> and 1 mM DTT were added (redox conditions) and incubation continued until the DTT was fully oxidized ([DTT]< 50 nM). To monitor the

reaction, aliquots were taken at several times and DTT measured as described in Ref. 24. When the reaction was completed, the remaining material was analyzed by immunoblot. Phosphatase-treated materials were subjected to phosphorylation with the catalytic subunit of PKA to assess dephosphorylation effectiveness.

Phosphorylation, V8 protease digestion and immunoprecipitation assays. Phosphorylation with the catalytic subunit of the cAMP-dependent protein kinase (Promega), digestion with V8 protease (Sigma), and immunoprecipitation with anti-GPpep1 antibodies was performed essentially as previously described (17).

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Antibodies. We have described the production and characterization of Mab3 antibodies (previously called Mab 17), which recognize a conformational disulfide-dependent epitope in the a3(IV)NC1 (25). The epitope of Mab3 implicates residues 29-44 and more critically the two Ser and a Pro therein, and residues 139-153 (15.16). We have previously reported (17.20) the production of the antibodies specific for the N-terminus of the human a3(TV)NC1 domain (anti-GPpep1, MabM3/1 and MabP1/2). MabP1/2 epitope implicates Ser<sup>9</sup>, as substitution of this residue by Ala or Asp effectively abolishes antibody binding to the corresponding  $\alpha 3(TV)NC1$ mutants. The remaining a3(IV)NC1-specific monoclonal antibodies, Mab175 and Mab189, were raised against bacterial randomly folded human recombinant a3(IV)NC1 (20). For these purposes, the a3(IV)NC1 was analyzed by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions, stained with Coomassie blue, and the polyacrylamide band containing the material of interest excised and used for mice immunization following standard procedures. The two monoclonal antibodies showed similar binding to reduced a3(IV)NC1 material in Western blot studies (not shown) and recognize linear epitopes that involve residues 103-117 of the \alpha3(TV)NC1 domain (15). However, whereas Mab175 reactivity does not vary significantly with antigen reduction or conformation (15), the binding of Mab189 to the \alpha3(IV)NC1 varies among conformers (see Fig. 22 below). The residue number indicates its position from the collagenase digestion site (26). All the monoclonal antibodies used were monospecific in Western-blot studies using recombinant proteins representing each of the six  $\alpha(IV)NC1$  domains (not shown). The anti-FLAG ( $\alpha$ -FLAG) and the anti-phosphoserine antibodies were from Sigma.

Individual sera from fifty GP patients, six healthy blood donors, or three autoimmune patients containing either rheumathoid factor, p-ANCA or ANCA autoantibodies, were used at 1:10 dilution in the immunoblot studies. Tissue-bound antibodies were acid-extracted as described in Ref. 27 from a control and from a GP kidney and used in a 1:2 or 1:5 dilutions for immunoblot purposes.

#### RESULTS

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The GP antibodies recognize multiple  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers. The reactivity of the GP antibodies towards human "monomers" was assessed using 50 individual patient sera. The reactivity greatly varied among patients, resulting in multiple reactive patterns (Fig. 21A, lanes 3-8), whereas control or other non-GP autoimmune sera did not display significant reactivity (Fig. 21A, lanes 1-2,). Multiple polypeptides displaying Mr between 22 and 28 kDa interacted with the GP antibodies. However, when representative individual patient sera were assayed for reactivity using recombinant material representing individual human  $\alpha$ (IV)NC1 ( $\alpha$ 1- $\alpha$ 6),  $\alpha$ 3 displayed the major autoantibody binding (Fig. 21B), thus confirming the  $\alpha$ 3 nature of the multiple reactive polypeptides in the human "hexamer" and implicating the different  $\alpha$ 3(IV)NC1 polypeptides in pathogenesis.

To assess this the GP antibodies bound to the GBM of a patient kidney, and therefore with the highest affinity, were eluted and assayed for reactivity towards the recombinant proteins (Fig. 1C). The data indicated that all the pathogenic antibodies were a3(IV)NC1-specific.

Identification of multiple conformers of the human a3(IV)NC1. The structural diversification of the a3(TV)NC1 domain detected with the GP antibodies was confirmed by identifying multiple a3(IV)NC1 molecular species in human "hexamer" using monoclonal antibodies (Mab) (Fig. 22A). Under non-reducing conditions, four a3(IV)NC1 isoforms (22. 23, 25 and 28 kDa) in addition to the previously identified 27-kDa polypeptide were detected. However, all the isoforms yielded a single component with a Mr of 29 kDa upon reduction, as determined by first isolating the non-reduced isoforms from a SDS-PAGE gel followed by a second SDS-PAGE analysis under reducing conditions (Fig. 22B). This indicates that, under non-reducing conditions, the differences in Mr among the a3(IV)NC1 polypeptides reflect distinct conformations that are stabilized by disulfide bonds. In the study shown, we have used Mab189, a monoclonal antibody recognizing a linear epitope implicating residues 103-117 (15) which apparently is more exposed in the 23-25-kDa molecular species (lane 1 of Fig. 22A). As expected, these antibodies interacted differently with the various a3(IV)NC1 isoforms when blotting the SDS-PAGE study performed under non-reducing conditions (NR). Reduction of disulfide bonds, however, resulted in an increased reactivity in the molecular species in which specific disulfide bonds prevented efficient antibody binding in the non-reducing gels, and thus all the molecular species with the exception of that in lane 5 containing the 23-kDa material showed an increased reactivity under reducing conditions (R).

These results reveal the existence of novel molecular species of the  $\alpha 3$  (IV)NC1 domain. They are designated as conformational isoforms (conformers) that are stabilized by individual disulfide bond distributions.

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Differential phosphorylation of the a3(TV)NC1 conformers by PKA. We have shown that human a3(IV)NC1 undergoes phosphorylation by type A protein kinases (17). To assess the susceptibility of the different a3(IV)NC1 conformers to phosphorylation, purified a3(IV)NC1 from human renal cortex, mainly consisting of the 27-kDa conformer, was incubated with the catalytic subunit of the cAMP-dependent protein kinase in the presence of  $[\gamma^{32}P]$  ATP (Fig. 23A, left). At 150 mM ATP, the major <sup>32</sup>P incorporation occurred in the 27-kDa conformer. However, when the ATP concentration was lowered to extracellular-like concentrations (0.15 mM), the 22-kDa conformer was preferentially labeled (NR). Both <sup>32</sup>P-labeled conformers co-migrated when SDS-PAGE analysis was performed under reducing conditions (R), and V8 protease digestion at Glu36 coupled with N terminal immunoprecipitation supported that phosphorylation of the two conformers occurred at similar sites (Fig. 23A, right). At both ATP concentrations we always found a variable amount of labeled material in the 22-27-kDa region that, in the experiment shown, required a longer time of exposure to be evident (not shown). Although the 27-kDa conformer was the most phosphorylated species at 150 mM ATP, this appears to reflect the high relative abundance of this conformer (see Fig 3C below) rather than its capacity for phosphorylation. Thus, when the time-course of the reaction was followed at this higher ATP concentration, the 22-kDa conformer was labeled first followed by the other conformers in the 22- and 27-kDa range. Finally, and only upon long periods of incubation did the 27-kDa conformer become more labeled (Fig. 23B). These results indicate that the 22-25-kDa conformers are better substrates for PKA at this ATP concentration.

This was independently confirmed by demonstrating that an  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 fraction enriched in the 22-25-kDa species showed higher susceptibility to phosphorylation than the fraction which is enriched in the 27-kDa conformer (Fig. 23C). In both pools, the major phosphorylation occurred at the 22-25-kDa conformers and the amount of  $^{32}P$  incorporated was consistent with the relative content in these molecular species. As expected, the multiple  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers present in either pool showed similar Mr in SDS-PAGE analysis performed under reducing conditions, and autoradiographic and immunoreactive bands comigrated.

To assess the physiological significance of these findings, we determined the presence of phosphoserine [Ser(P)] in the different human α3(IV)NC1 polypeptides by comparing the immunoreactive patterns of antibodies specifically reacting with the N terminus of the α3IVNC1 (MabP1/2) and antibodies specifically reacting with Ser(P) (Fig. 24). Similarly to the in vitro phosphorylation, the α3(IV)NC1 polypeptides representing the previously unrecognized conformers (22-25 kDa) displayed the highest Ser(P) content, whereas the 27-kDa conformer was comparatively less phosphorylated. The different susceptibility of the various conformers to undergo phosphorylation both in vitro and in vivo further supports the existence of important differences at the tertiary structure, and suggest that phosphorylation and folding are related processes in the α3(IV)NC1 domain.

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Phosphorylation regulates the conformation of the α3(IV)NC1 domain. The role of phosphorylation regulating the conformation of the α3(IV)NC1 domain was further investigated by assessing the ability of dephosphorylated domain to maintain its native structure. Untreated or alkaline phosphatase-treated human recombinant α3(IV)NC1 domain was allowed to rearrange its disulfide bonds in the presence of a DTT-metal-based redox system until DTT was fully oxidized. The material was then analyzed by SDS-PAGE and blotted either with Mab3, a monoclonal antibody binding to a native disulfide-dependent epitope present in the 27-kDa conformer (Fig. 22A) which overlaps with the major epitopes recognized by the GP autoantibodies (15,16), or by Mab175, a monoclonal antibody which reactivity does not vary significantly upon reduction or conformation (15) (Fig. 25).

During DTT consumption, most of the untreated material forms disulfide-bond high molecular weight aggregates, which do not enter into the running gel, and only a limited amount of material remains monomeric. Phosphatase treatment efficiently inhibited disulfide-based aggregation, and most of the material remains in a monomeric form. The untreated material that remained in a monomeric form maintained both apparent molecular weight (27-kDa) and the relative reactivity with the two antibodies of the starting material, whereas monomeric phosphatase-treated material contained multiple molecular species between 22 and 29 kD, which were poorly reactive with Mab3. All the molecular species, however, displayed the same apparent mobility (29 kDa) under reducing conditions, thus confirming that they represented different disulfide-based conformers.

Therefore, it appears that upon dephosphorylation, the 27-kDa conformer was unable to keep its native conformation, recognized by Mab3 antibodies, but adopted multiple

conformations (22-29 kDa conformers) during DTT consumption, and that disulfide-based aggregation of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 is a specific phenomenon which requires phosphorylation and native conformation to occur.

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The Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation promotes conformational diversification of the a3(IV)NC1 domain. Phosphorylation at Ser<sup>9</sup> is a biological hallmark of the human a3(IV)NC1 when compared to other NC1 domains. To assess the implication of Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation on the formation of multiple conformers of the a3(IV)NC1 domain, cell lines expressing a3(IV)NC1 (faSer<sup>9</sup>) or mutants thereof in which Ser<sup>9</sup> have been replaced by Ala (fa3Ala9) (SEO ID NO:68) or Asp (fa3Asp<sup>9</sup>) (SEQ ID NO:66) were generated. Although the two mutants are non-phosphorylatable at this site the Asp-based mutant is expected to mimic the Ser(P) derivative, because the acidic lateral chain Asp mimics Ser(P), whereas the Ala mutant is expected to represent the non phosphorylated counterpart, since, chemically. Ser is hydroxy-Alanine. The recombinant materials produced were separately collected and analyzed using Mab175 or Mab3 antibodies (Fig. 26). The studies with Mab175 revealed that the three materials mainly consisted of a major conformer of 27-kDa and a different number of conformers of lower and higher sizes which were more abundantly expressed in fa3 Asp9 than in fa3Ser9 whereas these were virtually absent in fa3Ala9. All three recombinant materials, however, displayed similar amounts of a single 29-kDa product under reducing conditions confirming that the different polypeptides were disulfide-bond stabilized a3(IV)NC1 conformers (\alpha-FLAG). These results suggest that in vivo phosphorylation at Ser<sup>9</sup> promotes the assembly of multiple conformations of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$ , and identifies Ser<sup>9</sup> as a major point of control for conformational diversification. The different reactive patterns shown by the three recombinant materials with Mab3 antibodies also indicate that the state of phosphorvlation of Ser<sup>9</sup> can efficiently influence the exposure of specific conformationdependent epitopes. Thus, the 27-kDa conformer of fa3Asp<sup>9</sup> was comparatively more reactive, and moved slightly faster in SDS-PAGE than fa3Ser9 or fa3Ala9 counterparts, and fa3Asp9 contained a 25-kDa conformer also reactive with these antibodies that was not present in the other materials. These findings further support the phosphorylation-dependent nature of the a3(TV)NC1 conformers, but also reveal that a phosphorylation event involving Ser<sup>9</sup> can result in cellular production of conformers with different exposure of pathogenically relevant epitopes.

## DISCUSSION

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Disulfide bond distribution represents the folding state of domains that are resident at the extracellular compartment (29). We have presented physical, chemical, immunochemical, biochemical and cell biological data supporting the existence of multiple disulfide bondstabilized conformers of the a3(TV)NC1 domain in basement membrane collagen. The evidence presented in this example indicates that phosphorylation plays a critical role in the production of these multiple conformers, and suggest that differential phosphorylation is at least part of the strategy for cellular production of conformers. Differential phosphorylation of a single unique native structure could occur prior or during chain association, vielding multiple structures, each one stabilized by individual disulfide-bond distributions. Individual molecular species would have enciphered in their covalent structure the assembly partner and the final conformation that would be acquired once assembled and stabilized into a "hexamer". The multiple conformers produced by the cells expressing the phosphorylated version of the a3(IV)NC1 domain at Ser<sup>9</sup> (fa3Asp9) sharply contrasts with the limited structural diversification of the material representing the non-phosphorylated counterpart (fa3Ala<sup>9</sup>). The molecular mechanism by which Ser<sup>9</sup> (P) promotes the assembly of the a3(IV)NC1 domain in multiple conformers is presently unknown. However, the presence of a cell adhesion motif as an integral part of the sequence that conforms the PKA recognition site (KRGDS<sup>9</sup>) (SEO ID NO:63) suggest that Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation promotes cell attachment of the a3(IV)NC1 and induce conformational diversification through an integrin-mediated mechanism.

The consequences on conformation derived from the presence of Asp<sup>9</sup> are unlikely to represent a physiological phenomenon, since the Mab3 reactive conformers of 25- and 27-kDa present in fa3Asp<sup>9</sup> are not produced by the cells expressing the native sequence (fa3Ser<sup>9</sup>). More likely, the phenomenon represents the aberrant consequences of a permanently phosphorylated Ser<sup>9</sup> intruding in the phosphorylation-dependent conforming process. These findings, in addition to further implicating phosphorylation in conformation, reveal that a breakage in the homeostatic phosphorylation of Ser<sup>9</sup> can promote the formation of conformers for which the immune system has not established a tolerance and thus trigger the immune response mediating GP disease. Overall, our studies establish the phosphorylation-dependent nature of the a3(IV)NC1 folding system and point to Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation as the biological feature that renders the human system vulnerable for autoimmune pathogenesis.

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## Example 5.

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Here we show that the isolated a3(IV)NC1 conformers show a state of activation that depends on phosphorylation and which is required for "hexamer" assembly. GPBP exerts a complex catalysis over isolated a3(IV)NC1 conformers, which comprises conformational isomerization and specific intermolecular disulfide bond formation, suggesting that GPBP is a novel type of molecular enzyme that assists "hexamer" formation in vivo.

## Materials and Methods for Example 5

Production of native and recombinant material. Human collagen IV NC1 "hexamer" and "monomers" were prepared from renal cortex as described in Example 4. Bovine testis α3(IV)NC1 "monomer" was prepared as described in Zashai et al. (1997). To produce prokaryotic human recombinant α3(IV)NC1, the cDNA used elsewhere to express the corresponding recombinant protein (Penadés et al, 1995) was subcloned into the BamHI site of a modified version of pET-15b vector (Novagen), in which the vector-derived N-terminal sequence except for the initiation Met was eliminated. The recombinant α3(IV)NC1 was purified by precipitation as described in Penadés et al. (1995) and the final pellet was dissolved in 8M urea.

Recombinant FLAG-tagged α3(IV)NC1 (fα3) was prepared as previously reported in Sado et al. (1998).

Recombinant GPBP and GPBP $\Delta$ 26 (rGPBP and rGPBP $\Delta$ 26) were prepared as described in Raya et al. (1999).

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Physical, chemical and immunochemical methods. Immunoblot studies were performed as described in Example 4. For far-Western, after protein transfer the membrane was blocked with non-fat milk, incubated with 30 ng/μl of fα3 or recombinant GPBP and the bound recombinant material detected with α-FLAG or Mab14, respectively.

Steady-state fluorescence measurements were carried out at 25°C on a Perkin-Elmer LS-50 spectrofluorimeter in Tris-buffered saline. The spectra were corrected by comparison to a quinine sulfate standard. The buffer was used as baseline in all the experiments and subtracted.

Unless indicated, SDS-PAGE studies were performed in the absence of a reducing agent.

DTT oxidation and oligomerization studies. In a standard assay, "monomer" or "hexamer" were reduced for 4 h with 2 mM DTT in 10 mM Tris pH 7.5 at 30°C. The mixtures were brought to 25 mM β-glycerol phosphate (pH 7.0), 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 8 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM MnCl<sub>2</sub> and 1 mM DTT (oligomerization buffer) in a final volume of 25-50 µl and incubation continued until the DTT was fully oxidized ([DTT] < 50 nM). To monitor the reaction, aliquots of 2-5 µl were taken at several times and DTT measured as described in Riddles et al. (1983). In some experiments, when the reaction was completed, the remaining material was analyzed by immunoblot. For some purposes, "monomers" were first dephosphorylated with 2 units of calf intestine alkaline phosphatase (Pharmacia) in oligomerization buffer without MnCl<sub>2</sub> and DTT. After 1h at 30°C, these components were added to reach oligomerization conditions and mixtures were monitored and analyzed as above. For some purposes alkaline phosphatase-treated fa3 were brought to the oligomerization conditions (DTT/Mn<sup>2+</sup>) in the presence of Tris-buffered saline and the process monitored by fluorescence emission spectra. The untreated materials used in these assays were carried in parallel in the absence of alkaline phosphatase. Phosphatase-treated materials were subjected to phosphorylation with cAMP-dependent protein kinase as previously described (Revert et al. 1995) to assess dephosphorylation effectiveness. For other purposes when the material was brought to oligomerization conditions equivalent amounts of bovine serum albumin (BSA), rGPBP or rGPBPΔ26 were added and mixtures were similarly monitored and analyzed.

Antibodies. The production of monoclonal antibodies against GPBP (Mab 14) was described in Raya et al., (1999), for the other antibodies see details in Example 4.

#### RESULTS

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Phosphorylation promotes the supramolecular aggregation of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain. At the endoplasmic reticulum, ATP is required to maintain the non-assembled monomers in a metastable conformation that is critical for physiological oligomerization (Braakman et al., 1992). Consequently, ATP could be used to phosphorylate and to place the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain into a metastable condition required for "hexamer" formation. Upon dissociation, the "hexamer" yields the different  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers as individual polypeptides ("monomer") but also as disulfide-based oligomers (Fessler and Fessler, 1982; Weber et al., 1984; Butkowski et al, 1985; Siebold et al., 1988; Reddy et al., 1993), which, in turn, represent disassembled and partially assembled  $\alpha 3$ (IV) chains, respectively. Conceivably, the transition from the "hexameric" (assembled) to "monomeric" (disassembled) condition could return the individual  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 species to a non-minimum energy condition that still may promote disulfide-based aggregation in vitro.

To explore this idea, we first dissociated human "hexamer" by SDS-PAGE and performed specific far-Western studies to assess "monomer-monomer" interactions. For these purposes, we used human recombinant FLAG-tagged α3(IV)NC1 domain (fα3) to probe in-blot renatured human "monomers" after SDS-PAGE, and FLAG-specific antibodies to detect fα3 binding (Fig. 27). Recombinant material preferentially bound to the 22-25-kDa polypeptides which were reactive with α3(IV)NC1-specific antibodies and showed the highest Ser(P) content, suggesting that fα3 preferentially interacts with the 22-25-kDa conformers of the α3(IV)NC1 and that phosphorylation is a structural requirement for "monomer-monomer" interaction. Nevertheless, additional conformational requirements other than Ser(P) seem to mediate fα3 recognition since the 23-25 kDa conformers displayed relatively less fα3 binding than the 22-kDa conformer but contained similar amounts of Ser(P) as estimated by immunochemical (Fig. 27) and chemical techniques (not shown).

The ability to form disulfide-based aggregates of the isolated "monomers", in comparison with assembled counterparts present in the "hexamer", was first investigated by assessing spontaneous disulfide-based aggregation of disassembled (27-kDa and 22-25-kDa), unassembled (fa3), or assembled (hexamer) human a3(IV)-monomers in the presence of a DTT-metal-based redox system (Fig. 28A). DTT levels were measured at different incubation intervals and the kinetics of DTT oxidation for each individual sample was determined (left). The rate of DTT oxidation significantly varied between samples with 22-25-kDa the sample enriched with the lower-sized highly phosphorylatable conformers displaying the major catalytic

activity followed by 27-kDa and fa3, whereas the "hexamer" did not oxidize DTT significantly. After DTT was fully oxidized (Fig 28A, right), non-assembled (Monomer) but not assembled (Hexamer) "monomers" appeared organized as large disulfide-based aggregates (not shown in the composite) that, upon reduction, yielded monomeric material (compare lane 2 of Monomer in NR and R). These data suggest that the non-assembled, but not the assembled, a3(IV)NC1 conformers can form and break intermolecular disulfide bridges in a continuous fashion and cause DTT oxidation. The accessibility of DTT to the assembled a3 material was confirmed by demonstrating that DTT treatment of "hexamer" strongly inhibited the binding of Mab3, an a3(IV)NC1-specific antibody recognizing a native disulfide-dependent conformational epitope present in the 27-kDa conformer (Borza et al., 2000) (not shown).

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Differences in DTT oxidation rates could be attributed to the different capacity for disulfide-based aggregation displayed by each individual "monomeric" sample. This was confirmed by assessing the ability of each disassembled "monomeric" sample (27-kDa, 22-25-kDa) to disulfide-aggregate with recombinant fa3, which displayed the lowest DTT oxidation rate and contained an engineered recognition site (FLAG) that allowed specific antibody detection (Fig. 28B). As expected, the 22-25-kDa conformers aggregated with fa3 to a greater extent than the 27-kDa conformer, and therefore upon DTT consumption, these samples contained significantly less monomeric fa3 (NR), indicating that samples enriched in conformers with lower apparent mass disulfide-aggregated more efficiently. The presence of fa3 disulfide-based aggregates was finally demonstrated by showing similar amounts of fa3 in all samples in parallel studies performed under reducing conditions (R). This, along with the higher phosphoserine content of these conformers (Fig. 27), suggests that phosphorylation mediates "monomer-monomer" recognition required for intermolecular disulfide-bond cross-linkage.

The role of phosphorylation mediating disulfide-based aggregation was further investigated by assessing fa3 aggregation of 22-25-kDa conformers in the presence or absence of alkaline phosphatase (Fig. 28C). Dephosphorylation significantly reduced DTT oxidation and aggregation, and a good correlation between the extent of aggregation and DTT oxidation rates was observed (compare left to right lanes in the blot with top to bottom curves in the graph), indicating that specific phosphorylation is the mechanism by which "monomers" become activated for disulfide-based oligomerization. Similar conclusions were obtained when we assayed alkaline phosphatase-free dephosphorylated fa3 material (not shown). Data from further experiments, including fluorescence spectroscopy of fa3 before and after alkaline phosphatase treatment (Fig. 29), suggested that disulfide-based aggregation and conformational changes occurred simultaneously and depend on phosphorylation.

GPBP catalyzes disulfide-based aggregation of the α3(IV)NC1 domain through specific conformational isomerization reactions. We have shown that GPBP is expressed associated with glomerular basement membranes, the main target of the GP autoantibodies, and that GPBP binds to recombinant material representing the human α3(IV)NC1 domain (see above). GPBP binding to human native NC1 material was tested over in-blot renatured human "monomers" after SDS-PAGE (Fig. 30). Interestingly, GPBP preferentially bound to 22-25-kDa polypeptides displaying the highest Ser(P) content, suggesting that, like fα3 (Fig. 27), the non-conventional protein kinase displayed a preferential binding towards the 22-25 α3(IV)NC1 conformers.

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To investigate the role of GPBP in the supramolecular assembly of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain, we assessed disulfide-mediated oligomerization of samples mainly consisting of the 27-kDa conformer in the presence of GPBP, or GPBP $\Delta 26$  (Fig. 31A). For these assays we have used fa3 mainly consisting of recombinant 27-kDa conformer and 27-kDa native material from a more reliable source than human kidney (bovine testis). We have found that bovine  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  undergoes also conformational diversification and the corresponding 27-kDa conformer shows a phosphorylation-dependent metastability similar to human counterpart.

As shown above, in the absence of GPBP or GPBPA26, DTT consumption resulted in a reduction of monomeric material mainly due to disulfide-dependent molecular aggregation as the reactivity of Mab175, an \(\alpha3(\text{IV})\text{NC1-specific antibody which reactivity does not vary}\) significantly upon antigen reduction (Borza et al, 2000), towards monomeric molecular species largely increased upon sample reduction. Essentially the same results were obtained when blotting the samples that contained GPBPA26. In contrast, when GPBP was present in the reaction mixture during DTT consumption, the resulting material displayed different reactive patterns in the Western-blot studies. Thus, Mab3 reacted with a previously unidentified polypeptide of approximately 28-kDa, in addition to the 27-kDa conformer, indicating that during DTT consumption GPBP catalyzed specific conformational isomerization reactions over the 27-kDa conformer that still maintained the native disulfide bonds arrangement required for Mab3 recognition. Accordingly, after DTT consumption, GPBPΔ26 samples contained a relatively greater abundance of 27-kDa conformer than samples containing GPBP, suggesting that this conformer was the substrate, whereas the 28kDa polypeptide was the product in the conformational isomerization reaction catalyzed by GPBP. Western-blot analysis using Mab175 antibodies revealed that, in the samples containing GPBP, most of the a3(TV)NC1 material existed as molecular species displaying

M<sub>r</sub> from 22 to 29 kDa all of which yielded a single molecular species of 29 kDa upon reduction, indicating that GPBP impaired random monomer disulfide-aggregation and catalyzed multiple conformational isomerizations other than the 27- to 28-kDa monitored by Mab3. The catalysis performed by GPBP was ATP independent, required the presence of the DTT-metal-based redox system (not shown), and could be observed with both human recombinant (not shown) or bovine native (shown) α3(IV)NC1 materials.

The presence of α3(IV)NC1 Mab3-reactive material organized in high molecular weight oligomers was also investigated (Fig. 31B). GPBP and, to a lesser extent GPBPΔ26 (not shown), catalyzed the formation of multiple molecular species reactive with Mab3 or Mab175 at the dimer and higher oligomer regions that were not detectable in control samples, suggesting that GPBP also catalyzes specific disulfide-based aggregation. The ratio between Mab3 reactive material at the monomer and oligomer regions found in different assays (compare Assay 1 and Assay 2) suggests that conformational isomerization is a requirement for aggregation during GPBP catalysis. Thus, mixtures containing higher levels of Mab3 reactive material at the oligomer region displayed lower levels of Mab3 reactive monomer species and vice versa.

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However, the most evident effect of GPBP over the α3(IV)NC1 material was to stabilize the different conformers in a monomeric form and to impair random disulfide-aggregation, suggesting that GPBP, and to a minor extent GPBPΔ26, are acting in the in vitro assays as molecular chaperones. Accordingly, GPBP and, to a lesser extent GPBPΔ26 disrupted disulfide-based high molecular weight aggregates characteristic of recombinant material representing human α3(IV)NC1 produced in bacteria which do not enter into the running gel of an SDS-PAGE analysis, and promoted the formation of lower molecular weight disulfide-based oligomers which reacted with Mab 3 (Fig. 31C). However, GPBP and GPBPΔ26 were unable to generate detectable levels of molecular species in monomer-trimer range. The disaggregating effect of GPBP on bacterial recombinant α3(IV)NC1 material did not vary significantly with the presence of ATP or DTT-metal-based redox system (not show).

Finally, we assessed the involvement of phosphate groups present in the α3(IV)NC1 in the overall process catalyzed by GPBP by comparing its action over alkaline phosphatase-treated or untreated fα3 (Fig. 31D). As shown in Figure 25, upon DTT consumption phosphatase-treated fα3 showed reduced levels of material that maintained the native structure (Mab3), along with abundant non-oligomerized conformers between 22- to 29-kDa (Mab175) that do not harbor the native conformation. As noted above, this indicates that, in

the a3(IV)NC1 system, phosphorylation is critical for both the maintenance of the native conformation and the disulfide-aggregation, but also suggests that the native structure is required for effective aggregation. Consistently, the addition of GPBP to the phosphatase-treated samples resulted in a further reduction in the levels of monomeric material reactive with Mab3 which was not observed, at least to a similar extent, with the material only reactive with Mab175, supporting that native conformation is required for oligomerization and that GPBP catalyzes the reaction.

### **DISCUSSION**

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Although it is widely accepted that the NC1 domain of individual chains plays a leading role in collagen formation (Fessler and Fessler, 1982; Ries et al., 1995; Boutaud et al., 2000), the precise mechanism mediating chain selection and assembly is unknown. As indicated herein, the individual NC1 domains are generated as phosphorylation-dependent metastable conformations that become stable once assembled in the "hexamer".

The mechanism by which α3(IV)NC1 conformers are generated remains to be established. However, the reduced ability of phosphatase-treated material to maintain the native structure and the high phosphoserine content of the non-conventional α3(IV)NC1 conformers, suggest that phosphorylation plays a critical role in the production of multiple non-minimum energy structures.

Phosphorylation also mediates at least in part the molecular recognition and DTT consumption in the oligomerization assays. The latter reveal the existence of a high turnover in the intermolecular disulfide bonds that likely reflects the search for the proper partner, but also suggests the existence of a machinery with the potential to assist disulfide-based cross-linking of the NC1 domain in vivo. We show here that GPBP catalyzes disulfide-based aggregation of the a3(TV)NC1 domain through a process that comprises specific conformational isomerization reactions in vitro, suggesting that GPBP catalyzes at least in part the intermolecular cross-linkage of the "hexamer" in vivo.

The information required to form a collagen IV "hexamer" resides in the covalent structure of the "monomer," as the individual NC1 domains select their partners to form "hexameric" structures without the assistance of other cellular factors (Boutaud et al., 2000). This suggests that GPBP catalysis is occurring, at least in part, after chain association and during disulfide stabilization of the collagen IV network, a process that occur necessarily outside of the cell (Fessler and Fessler, 1982). Consistently, GPBP is abundantly expressed associated with GBM (Raya et al., 2000), and recent data using confocal microscopy demonstrate that

a3(TV)NC1 and GPBP co-localize at the human GBM (Burgués and Saus, unpublished observations).

At the endoplasmic reticulum, differential phosphorylation of a single unique native structure could occur prior or during chain association, yielding multiple metastable structures each one stabilized by individual disulfide-bond distributions. Individual molecular species would have enciphered in their covalent structure the assembly partner and the final conformation that will be acquired once assembled and stabilized into a "hexamer". In this model, GPBP could be the machinery assisting, deciphering and catalyzing the stabilization of the corresponding quaternary structures.

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In the absence of ATP, GPBP catalyzed the formation of multiple conformers and specific oligomers of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain, suggesting that the phosphorylated structure of this domain has enciphered multiple assembly programs that require GPBP assistance to be accomplished, and the kinase activity of GPBP could represent an auxiliary function required for specific in vivo folding-assembly reactions which are not occurring in the in vitro assays.

Humans have acquired an additional phosphorylation site for type A protein kinases at the N-terminal region of the \alpha3(TV)NC1 domain (Ser<sup>9</sup>) (Revert et al. 1995; Raya et al. 1999 and 2000), yielding a comparatively more phosphorylatable polypeptide (Revert et al., 1995; Raya et al., 1999) with a remarkable susceptibility to undergo autoimmune attack. Recent evidence indicates that phosphorylation of Ser<sup>9</sup> (P) regulates at least in part the conformational diversification perhaps operating through an integrin recognition motif adjacent to it. Interestingly we have found that the recombinant counterparts for the  $\alpha$ -1,-2,-4,-5 and -6(IV) chains also show a phosphorylation-dependent metastability in the in vitro oligomerization assays, and that human  $\alpha 1(IV)NC1$  as well as bovine  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domains exist as multiple conformers (unpublished results). This indicates that the phosphorylation-dependent conformational diversification and "activation" for disulfide-aggregation are not a human a3(TV)NC1 exclusive conditions, and therefore cannot be considered the structural feature that renders this system vulnerable to pathogenesis. However, it is conceivable that vulnerability to pathogenesis of the human a3(TV)NC1 system comes from the potential intrusion in conformation of the human exclusive phosphorylation process at Ser<sup>9</sup>. Accordingly we have presented evidences supporting that a phosphorylation event involving Ser<sup>9</sup> can lead to the formation of a3(IV)NC1 conformers for which the immune system has not established a tolerance and trigger an autoimmune attack, which therefore can be envisioned as a legitimate response of the immune system against a misfolded autoantigen

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### Example 6

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Here we present evidence suggesting that in GP patients an augmented expression of both GPBP and GP $\Delta$ III results in the assembly at the glomerular basement membrane of aberrant non-tolerized  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers that induce and conduct the autoimmune response. Our findings further support previous observations indicating that a phosphorylation event can lead the formation of  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers for which the immune system have not established a tolerance and therefore induce an immune response.

## Materials and Methods for Example 6

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Synthetic oligonucleotides. The following oligonucleotides and other used for DNA sequencing were synthesized by Genosys, Life Technology Inc., Roche or Pharmacia:

ON-B-HNC-1c [5'-CAGGGATCCGTTCTTTAGGATGAAAA-3'] (SEQ ID NO:70); ON-HNC-3m [5'-GACCCTGTGGGCCAAGA-3'] (SEQ ID NO:71); ON-HNC-6c [5'-CAGGGATCCGAGTGTCTTTTCTTCATGC-3'] (SEQ ID NO:72); ON-GP-F1, [5'-GGAGACAGTGGATCACCTGCA-3'] (SEQ ID NO:73); 15 ON-GP-R1, [5'-TGCTGTGGTTTGACTGTGTCG-3'] (SEQ ID NO:74); ON-GP-3-F1, [5'-CGGACAAGACCTTGATGCACT-3'] (SEQ ID NO:75); ON-GP-3-R2, [5'-CAGCCGTGAGGACATGGAG-3'] (SEQ ID NO:76); ON-hGPBPc-F1, [5'-CTGAATCCAGCTTGCGTCG-3'] (SEQ ID NO:77) ON-hGPBPc-R1, [5'-GCAGAGTAGCCACTTGCTCC-3'] (SEQ ID NO:78); 20 ON-GPBPe26-F1, [5'-CGCTCTTCCTCCATGTCTTCC-3'] (SEQ ID NO:79); ON-GPBPe26-R1, [5'-CCTGGGAGCTGAATCTGTGAA-3'] (SEQ ID NO:80); ON-GPBP-26-F1, [5'-GCTGTTGAAGCTGCTCTTGACA-3'] (SEQ ID NO:81); ON-GPBP-26-R1, [5'-TGGTATTGCTCAAATTTCGGC-3'] (SEQ ID NO:82); ON-GAPDH-F, [5'-GAAGGTGAAGGTCGGAGTC-3'] (SEQ ID NO:83): 25 ON-GAPDH-R, [5'-GAAGATGGTGATGGGATTTC-3'] (SEQ ID NO:84).

Production of native and recombinant NC1 domain. These materials were prepared as described in the accompanying Examples.

RNA purification. Frozen human tissues were ground in the presence of liquid nitrogen and further disrupted with a Polytron-like device in the presence of either TRI-REAGENT<sup>TM</sup> (Sigma) and total RNA purified using manufacturer's recommendations, or with 4M guanidine thiocyanate 1% β-mercaptoethanol in 0.1 M Tris pH 7.5 and RNA purification carried out by standard CsCl gradient approach.

Reverse transcriptase coupled polymerase chain reaction studies (RT-PCR). To obtain the cDNA for the 03(IV)NC1 domain and for its alternatively spliced products, total

RNA from each individual kidney (0.5 µg) was retro-transcribed using ON-B-HNC-1c. The corresponding single stranded cDNAs were subjected to PCR using ON-HNC-3m and ON-HNC-6c. The products were further identified by nucleotide sequence or restriction map.

The mRNA levels for all the COL4A3 and COL4A3BP products (GPt and GPBPt), GPΔIII, GPBP, GPBPΔ26, or glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) in each individual human kidney was estimated by measuring the corresponding cDNAs in the reverse transcription mixtures obtained as above using a random hexamer priming and 5 μg of total RNA. This was accomplished by quantitative PCR using a SDS 7700 Applied Biosystems apparatus and the following primers: ON-GP-F1 and ON-GP-R1; ON-hGPBPc-F1 and ON-hGPBPc-R1; ON-GP-3-F1 and ON-GP-3-R2; ON-GPBPe26-F1 and ON-GPBPe26-R1; ON-GPBP-26-R1; or, ON-GAPDH-F and ON-GAPDH-R, respectively. PCR reactions were done using 5 μl of 1:100 and 1:1000 dilutions of the reverse transcriptase except for GAPDH for which determinations the dilutions used were 1:1000 and 1:10000. Standard curves for each PCR were done using the same oligonucleotides and different amounts of individual plasmids containing the corresponding cDNAs.

Immunochemical studies. Immunoblot studies and in situ fa3 binding assays were performed as detailed in Example 5.

Antibodies. The production and specificity of the antibodies are detailed in the accompanying Examples 4 and 5. Tissue-bound antibodies were extracted from a control and from each of two GP kidneys from which NC1 hexamer was prepared for use.

### RESULTS

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GPAIII is expressed at higher levels in GP kidneys. We have made the observation that the mRNA level for GPAIII was augmented with respect to the primary product in a GP kidney and that this could have pathogenic significance (Bernal et al, 1993). This was investigated in additional patient and control kidneys using two different PCR approaches coupled to reverse transcription (Fig. 32). First we used primers flanking the coding region of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain and we amplified the cDNAs for the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 products of interest present in human kidney (Fig. 32A). As previously observed, control kidney expressed mainly the primary product with traces of GPAIII, whereas GP kidneys expressed relatively higher levels of GPAIII, further supporting the initial observation that an increased expression of this alternative product has pathogenic relevance. Second, and for quantitative purposes,

the individual reverse transcription mixtures were amplified using primers common to all the mRNA products derived from COL4A3 (GPt) or primers specific for the alternative variant under investigation (GP $\Delta$ III) (Fig. 32 B, C). Quantitative studies revealed an overall augmented expression of the  $\alpha$ 3(IV) products in GP kidneys that was more evident for the alternative GP $\Delta$ III than for the primary product, reflecting that during pathogenesis, an augmented transcription of COL4A3 and a relative increase in the expression of GP $\Delta$ III. occur

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Identification of aberrant a3(IV)NC1 conformers in GP kidneys. Since GPAIII positively regulates the phosphorylation of the primary a3(TV)NC1 product in vitro, and in this domain phosphorylation plays a critical role in conformation, we investigated the presence of disease associated a3(IV)NC1 conformers in GP kidneys. We have previously reported that there are not differences in the primary structure of patient a3(TV)NC1 that could account for its immunogenic condition, and therefore if there are structural differences between patient and control a3(TV)NC1 domains which account for the immunogenicity they must be post-translational (Bernal et al, 1993). Thus, after confirming by direct cDNA sequencing the fidelity of the primary structure of the a3(IV)NC1 domain in each individual patient kidney, we isolated the collagen IV NC1 domain ("hexamer") from patient kidneys 2 and 3, and also from control kidneys and we assessed the binding of a3(IV)NC1-specific antibodies, which reactivity largely depends on antigen conformation (Fig. 33). When the individual  $\alpha(IV)NC1$  domains present in the "hexamer" extracted from individual kidneys were blotted with Mab3, an antibody that recognizes a native disulfide-dependent epitope characteristic of the 27-kDa conformer of the \alpha3(IV)NC1, the major reactive polypeptide in patient's material appeared slightly retarded with respect to control, and patient 2 contained an additional reactive polypeptide of 28-kDa not present in control or patient 3 "hexamer" (Fig. 33). Finally, when we assessed the reactivity of Mab189, an antibody that reacts preferentially with the 23-25-kDa a3(IV)NC1 conformers, we found that these antibodies, in addition to interacting with the expected NC1 polypeptides in both control and patient materials, displayed an increased reactivity towards the patient 27-kDa a3(TV)NC1 conformer (Fig. 33). All these data reveal the presence of conformational differences between patient and control in the 27-kDa conformer of the a3(IV)NC1 domain.

The disulfide-bond cross-linkage of the NC1 domain is defective in GP kidneys. Since conformational differences are expected to be reflected in the quaternary structure ("hexamer"), the disulfide-based oligomeric subunits representing this structural level were analyzed in both patient and control "hexamers" (Fig. 34). Whereas no major differences in the amount of material were evident between control and patient at the monomer region (between

21 and 30 kDa), patient material showed a relative higher content in dimers (~46 kDa) and a reduction in the amount of aggregates of higher molecular mass (>69 kDa), revealing that in these patients the disulfide-based cross-linkage of collagen IV through the NC1 domain was impaired. Accordingly, the high molecular weight material in patient "hexamer" displayed a reduced reactivity towards Mab3 and Mab189 (Fig. 34B), suggesting that in GP "hexamer" there exists a defective disulfide-mediated cross-linkage of the α3(IV)NC1 conformers. This was also concluded when we assessed the binding of fα3 to the high molecular weight components of the "hexamer" (Fig. 34B). This recombinant form of the human α3(IV)NC1, which preferentially binds to the α3(IV)NC1 conformers of low apparent mass, exhibited a reduced binding to the high molecular weight components present in the patient "hexamer," further supporting that the disulfide bond cross-linkage of these α3(IV)NC1 conformers is highly impaired in GP patients. All these findings suggest that in GP patients there exists a defective disulfide bond cross-linkage of the "hexamer" that is caused by conformational alterations present in the NC1 domain of the α3(IV) chain.

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The aberrant a3(IV)NC1 conformers conduct the immune response in GP disease. The conformational alterations present in the a3(TV)NC1 of GP patients, however, does not significantly reduce the gross amount of 03(TV) chain assembled into the collagen TV network since the reduced proportion of high molecular weight oligomers is compensated by a higher content in dimers (Fig. 34A). By modifying the B cell processing and peptide presentation, the aberrant conformers could promote a T cell mediated antigen-driven antibody response similar to that found in other autoimmune disorder (Shlomchik et al, 1987) and produce autoantibodies that, by somatic mutation, would develop a high specific reactivity for the aberrant conformation. To assess this, the autoantibodies bound to the glomerular basement membrane in the affected kidneys (and therefore with the highest affinity) were eluted and their reactivity towards control or patient antigen compared (Fig. 35). Antibodies eluted from the patient kidneys preferentially reacted with the corresponding patient 27-kDa antigen conformer, whereas Mab175, an \alpha3(TV)NC1-specific antibody whose reactivity is not significantly affected by peptide conformation, showed similar amounts of 27-kDa conformer to be present in patient and control samples. Therefore, specific conformation(s) of the GP autoantigen found exclusively in the patients appears to conduct the immune response that mediates GP disease.

The expression of GPBP is augmented in GP kidneys. We have shown that GPBP phosphorylates the N terminal region of the  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 domain including Ser<sup>9</sup> in vitro (Raya et al.,1999) and that Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation determines the cohort of conformers produced by the cell (Example 4). Furthermore, GPBP is expressed associated with alveolar and

glomerular basement membranes and an augmented expression of GPBP has been associated with different autoimmune conditions including a GP patient (Raya et al, 2000). Consequently, to investigate the implication of GPBP in GP pathogenesis, we estimated by reverse transcriptase coupled to quantitative PCR, the transcriptional activity of COL4A3BP, the gene encoding GPBP and GPBP\(Delta 26\), in both patient and control kidneys (Fig. 36). Quantitative studies revealed an augmented transcriptional activity for the corresponding gene in all three patient kidneys (GPBPt). However, when the levels of each of the two mRNA species derived from COL4A3BP were estimated, we found GPBP to be relatively higher expressed in patient than in control kidneys (GPBP\(Delta 26\) and GPBP), indicating that during pathogenesis the enhanced transcription of COL4A3BP is accompanied by a relative augmented expression of GPBP with respect to GPBP\(Delta 26\).

## **DISCUSSION**

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The higher specificity of the pathogenic antibodies towards aberrant  $\alpha 3$  (IV)NC1 conformers present in disease-affected tissues indicates that this material is the antigen conducting the autoimmune response, and suggests that alterations in the tertiary structure of  $\alpha 3$  (IV)NC1 domain cause GP disease.

The data presented here and in the accompanying Examples support that phosphorylation activates the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain for disulfide bond-aggregation, a process that is catalyzed by GPBP, involves specific conformational isomerization reactions and which results in the assembly and stabilization of multiple conformers of this domain in the basement membrane. In the absence of ATP, GPBP catalyzes the formation of multiple conformers and specific oligomers of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain in vitro (Example 5), suggesting that the phosphorylated structure of this domain has enciphered multiple assembly programs which require GPBP assistance to be accomplished. Consistently, alkaline phosphatase-treated  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  did not aggregate efficiently and this material was unable to follow a disulfide bond-aggregation program in the presence of GPBP (Example 5).

In vitro, PKA and GPBP phosphorylate the human α3(IV)NC1 domain at Ser<sup>9</sup>, a site that is also targeted by the endogenous phosphorylation process (Revert et al, 1995; Raya et al., 1999). The evidence indicates that the homeostasis of Ser<sup>9</sup> phosphorylation is critical for physiological conformer production (Example 4). In addition to Ser<sup>9</sup>, the N-terminal region of the human α3(IV)NC1 contains additional phosphorylation sites not present in other species (Ser<sup>11</sup> and Thr<sup>14, 16,17</sup>), which are also targeted by the two kinases in vitro (Raya et al, 1999;

Revert et al, unpublished observations) suggesting that N-terminal phosphorylability is critical for pathogenesis.

In a yeast two hybrid system, the fly counterpart of GPBP interacts with the corresponding fly cPKA. (Carine Rossé and Jacques Camonis, personal communication) Bovine cPKA phosphorylates GPBP in vitro (not shown). Finally, type A protein kinases and GPBP have been found associated with cell plasma membrane and endothelial basement membranes, respectively (Revert et al., 1995; Raya et al., 2000). All these suggest that the two kinases can interact and form stable complexes in vivo and which operate during the molecular and supramolecular assembly of the collagen IV.

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In addition to divergence at the N-terminal region of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain (Quinones et al, 1992), humans have developed a unique alternative splicing mechanism to regulate phosphorylation of Ser<sup>9</sup> by cPKA (herein), resulting in a comparatively more vulnerable polypeptide to undergo conformational alterations and an autoimmune attack.

The GP antibodies recognize a potent immunogenic region adjacent to the exclusive Nterminus that harbors also Mab3 epitope (Borza et al, 2000). The main epitope for the GP antibodies is maintained by disulfide bonds and depends on hydrophobic residues that require dissociation of the "hexamer" to be exposed (Netzer et al, 1999; Hellmark et al, 1999; Borza et al., 2000; David et al., 2001). Mab3 epitope is maintained by the same disulfide bonds but involves hydrophilic residues that are accessible in the "hexamer" (Saus et al, 1988; Johansson et al. 1991; Borza et al., 2000; David et al. 2001). Thus, during pathogenesis an aberrant Nterminal phosphorylation could result in conformers with a higher exposure of the hydrophobic residues, which because of the disulfide bonds would still maintain the reactivity with Mab3. Consistently, permanently phosphorylated versions of the a3(TV)NC1 domain at Ser<sup>9</sup> show a relative higher specificity with Mab3 (Example 4) and with GP autoantibodies (not shown). Our data also indicate that a similar pathogenic mechanism is operating in every patient, therefore the resulting conformational alterations are expected to be highly similar among patients as no alterations in the primary structure of the patient \(\alpha3(IV)\)NC1 have been found. This would account for the large cross-reaction among patient autoantibodies but also for the high affinity that tissue-bound autoantibodies from one patient display for the 27-kDa conformer of other patient in comparison with the affinity displayed towards control material (not shown).

COL4A3BP, the gene encoding GPBP and GPBP $\Delta$ 26, and POLK the gene encoding for pol  $\kappa$ , a member of the UmuC/DinB superfamily of DNA polymerases which can extend aberrant replication forks are transcribed in a divergent mode from a bi-directional promoter

(Granero et al, unpublished results). This promoter shows high sequence homology with a number of other bi-directional promoters including that transcribing COL4A3 and COL4A, the genes encoding the α3 and α4 chains of collagen IV. The homology between promoters transcribing otherwise unrelated structural genes reveals the existence of a convergent evolution phenomenon to coordinate their expression (Granero et al, unpublished results). Accordingly during pathogenesis we found a transcriptional induction of the two genes. Moreover, the signal(s) to coordinate the expression of these genes seems to reach the machinery regulating pre-mRNA processing, since GPΔIII and GPBP, which represent minor mRNA forms in each individual gene system, are the mRNA species more significantly increased.

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Taking all these data together, it is plausible to think that during pathogenesis triggering events by increasing the expression of both GP $\Delta$ III and GPBP, cause an aberrant N-terminal phosphorylation generating activated  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 structures with an altered disulfide bondaggregation program. Subsequently, GPBP would catalyze its assembly into the collagen IV network resulting in the presence of altered conformers in the basement membrane. Finally, aberrant assembled  $\alpha 3$ (IV)NC1 conformers would induce and drive a T cell-dependent antibody-mediated immune response (Fig. 37).

We have shown above in an in vitro system that during GPBP catalysis, and prior disulfide bond-aggregation of the  $\alpha 3(IV)NC1$  domain, the 27-kDa conformer undergoes conformational isomerization to generate a 28-kDa conformer similar to that found in Patient 2, suggesting that the Mab3-reactive 28-kDa conformer found in the "hexamer" of Patient 2 likely represents a trapped intermediate which derive from an aberrant 27-kDa conformer that is incapable to follow the correct disulfide bond-aggregation.

These and previous data which show that GPBP is abundantly expressed in structures that either are the target of common autoimmune responses or are undergoing an autoimmune attack (Raya et al, 1999 and 2000) reveal that GPBP plays a major role in human autoimmunity and suggest that the production of non-tolerized conformational versions of different autoantigens is operating in other autoimmune pathogenesis.

The molecular basis of the autoimmune responses has been elusive. The findings presented in this and the accompanying Examples lead to a new concept of the human autoimmune response, which is envisioned as a legitimate reaction of the immune system towards a non-physiologically folded but still assembled autoantigen.

## **REFERENCES FOR EXAMPLE 6**

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The present invention is not limited by the aforementioned particular preferred embodiments. It will occur to those ordinarily skilled in the art that various modifications may be made to the disclosed preferred embodiments without diverting from the concept of the invention. All such modifications are intended to be within the scope of the present invention.

#### I claim:

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1. A method for identifying candidate compounds to treat an autoimmune condition, comprising identifying compounds that:

- a) reduce phosphorylation of a first target protein selected from the group consisting of GPBP, an  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, and a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:64; and
- b) reduce formation of conformational isomers of a second target protein selected from the group consisting of an a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide and myelin basic protein;

wherein such compounds are candidates for treating an autoimmune condition.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying compounds that reduce phosphorylation of the target protein comprises:
  - i) incubating the first target protein and ATP in vitro in the presence or absence of one or more test compounds under conditions that promote phosphorylation of the target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds;
    - ii) detecting phosphorylation of the first target protein; and
  - iii) identifying test compounds that reduce phosphorylation of the first target protein relative to phosphorylation of the first target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the first target protein is GPBP and wherein the phosphorylation is autophosphorylation.
  - 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the first target protein is the α3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, and wherein the method further comprises incubating in vitro the first target protein and ATP with GPBP, and wherein the phosphorylation is phosphorylation of the first target protein by GPBP.
  - 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the first target protein is an a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide, and wherein the method further comprises determining an effect of the

one or more test compounds on phosphorylation of individual conformational isomers of the first target protein.

- 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the first target protein is an a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide, and wherein the method further comprises determining an effect of the one or more test compounds on phosphorylation of an a3 type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a3(IV)NC1Ser9, a3(IV)NC1Asp9, and a3(IV)NC1Ala9.
- 7. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying compounds that reduce formation of conformational isomers of the target protein comprises:
  - i) providing cells expressing the second target protein;

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- ii) culturing the cells in the presence or absence of one or more test compounds, under conditions that promote conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds;
  - iii) detecting conformational isomerization of the second target protein; and
- iv) identifying test compounds that reduce conformational isomerization of the second target protein relative to conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds.
- 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the second target protein is an  $\alpha 3$  type IV collagen NC1 domain polypeptide.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying compounds that reduce formation of conformational isomers of the second target protein comprises:
  - i) contacting in vitro the second target protein with GPBP in the presence or absence of one or more test compounds under conditions that promote GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds;
  - ii) detecting GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein; and
  - iii) identifying test compounds that reduce GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein relative to GPBP-induced conformational isomerization of the second target protein in the absence of the one or more test compounds.

17. The conformational isomer of claim 15, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has a molecular weight in a non-reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel of 23 kD.

- 5 18. The conformational isomer of claim 15, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has a molecular weight in a non-reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel of 25 kD.
  - 19. The conformational isomer of claim 15, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has a molecular weight in a non-reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel of 27 kD.
  - 20. The conformational isomer of claim 15, wherein the isolated conformational isomer has a molecular weight in a non-reducing sodium dodecyl sulfate gel of 28 kD.
- 21. An isolated type IV collagen a NC1 domain polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 66 and SEQ ID NO: 68.

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1783	E GA	CAG MAAT KCAA	S CTCC K GAAC Y TTA'	Q CCAG V SGTA F FTTC H	V GTT Y TAC W TGG	E GAAG R AGAI N BAATO R	E MAGATA R I AGAGE V I STTG: V STGT	Y V YGGI AAGI D V ACGI W I	GCAG GCAG ACA ACA TTCG PA	N GAAG AGAI CAA' CAA'	H CCAC N AAAT D TGAC TCAC	M G G G G T T G R G G G G	T ACT ATT E GAM D	Y TAC  V TGTT  T ACA  V TGTA	S TCAT L CTGC T ACTI	L TAC D SATC I ATAC Y	Q AGG	D V ATGT L K IAAA N E ACTT S \ CTGT	G AGGC AGCT H TCAT	G T TACC V TGTG R TCGA	D GATG  V GTGG  K AAG	A SCCI A SCAC E SAAI ATA	N V STIA T ACAI P CCAC	W GGCI K AAG L TAG A	Q I AGT GCG: A I CTGI L	CTGA	V IGTA G AGGA TGCA I N	B GAAC H ACATC I AATC D	E \ GAAGT I I ATCAT P I CCTGI	V 458 FC I 491 FT E 524
1783	E GA	CAG MAAT KCAA	S CTCC K GAAC Y TTA'	Q CCAG V SGTA F FTTC H	V GTT Y TAC W TGG	E GAAG R AGAI N BAATO R	E MAGATA R I AGAGE V I STTG: V STGT	Y V YGGI AAGI D V ACGI W I	GCAG GCAG ACA ACA TTCG PA	N GAAG AGAI CAA' CAA'	H CCAC N AAAT D TGAC TCAC	M G G G G T T G R G G G G	T ACT ATT E GAM D	Y TAC  V TACA  ACA  V TACA	S TCAT L CTGC T ACTI	L TAC D SATC I ATAC Y	Q AGG	D V ATGT L K IAAA N E ACTT S \ CTGT	G AGGC AGCT H TCAT	G T TACC V TGTG R TCGA	D GATG  V GTGG  K AAG	A SCCI A SCAC E SAAI ATA	N V STIA T ACAI P CCAC	W GGCI K AAG L TAG A	Q I AGT GCG: A I CTGI L	CTGA	V IGTA G AGGA TGCA I N	B GAAC H ACATC I AATC D	E \ GAAGT I I ATCAT P I CCTGI	V 458 FC I 491 FT E 524
1783 1882	E GA C TG TG	CAG AAT CAA	S CTCC K GAAC Y TTA' TAAC	Q V SGTA F TTTC H ACAC	V GTT Y TAC W TGG K	E GAAG R AGAI N BAATO R	E MAGATI R I LGAGA V I STTGA V	M V NGGI E V AAGI D V ACGI W I GGCO	GCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAG	AGAI CAA'	H CCAC N AAAT D TGAC TCAC	M G G G G T G G T G G	ACT ATT ATT GAL	Y TAC  V TACA  V TACA	S TCAT L CTGC T ACTI	TAC D SATC I ATAC Y	Q :AGG. P :CTT E :BAAA	D V ATGT L K TAAA N E ACTT S \ CTGT	G AGGC AGCT H TCAT	G CGGA T TACC V TGTG R TCGA	D GATG	A A GCAC E GAA I ATA	N V STIA T ACAT P CCAC	W GGCI K AAG L TAG A CCT	Q I AGT G ' GCG A I CTG L TGA	CTGA	V IGTA G AGGA TGCA I N AAA	B GAAC H ACATC L AATC: D TGAC	E \GAAGI I I ATCAI P I CCTGI	V 458 FC I 491 FT E 524 AA T 55
1783 1882	E GA	CAG MAAT CAA CAA	S CTCC K GAAC TTA TTA TAAC	Q V GGTA F PTTC H ACAC	V GTT Y TAC W TGC K	B GAAG R AGAF N BAATO R BAGGO	E MAGATINE AGAGE V 1 STTG: V STGT	FOR THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	CTGCA	AGAI CAA' STTC	H CCAC N AAAT D TGAC TCAC	M G G G G T G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	T ACT I ATT E GAL GAC A C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	Y TAC  V TACA  V TOTA	S TCAT  L CTGC  T ACT  L TTA  L TCTA	TAC DEATC I ATAC Y FATC N	Q AGG	D V ATGT L K IAAA N E ACTT CTGI R (CGATC	AGGC AGCT AGCT AGCT AGCT AGCT AGCT AGCT	G TGGA TACC V TGTG R TCGA	D GATO V GTGG K AAG	A A GCAC E GAA I ATA K AAA	N V TTTA T ACAT P CCAC I ATAJ	W GGCC K AAG L TAG A GCCT N AATG	AGTI G ' GCG' A I CTGI TGA V TTG	CTAI	GAT	E GAAC H ACATC I AATC TGAC	E \ GAAGT  I   ATCAT  P   CCTGI	V 458 FC I 491 FT E 524 AA T 55
1783 1882 1983	E GA C 3 TG Y 2 TA 1 AC	CAG MAAT CAA CAA TCA	S CTCC K GAAC TTA TTA LAAC	Q CCAG V GGTA H ACAC	V GTT Y TAC W TTGC K C TTGT	B GAAG R AGAI N BAATO R BAGGO N	E MAGATI R I AGAGI V I STGTI P	F V FGGT FAAGT AAGT ACGT W FGGCC S CTG	Y Q GCAG Y E AGA Y R FTCG P A CTGC	AGAI CAA TTC	H CCAC N AAAT D TGAC TCAC	N CATG	T ACT I ATT B GAL	Y TAC  V TACA  V TACA  V TACA  P TCCT	S TCAT  L CTGC  T ACTI  L TTA	L TAC D EATC I ATAC Y N AAC	P CCTT E BAAA L CTTT	D V ATGT L K IAAA N E ACTT CTGT R (C CGATC	G AGGC AGCT TCAT CAT CAT	G T TACC V TGTG R TCGA	D GATO V GTGO K AAG	A BCCA BCAA E BAA I ATA K AAA	N V STIA T ACAI P CCAC I ATAI	W GGCI K AAG L TAG A CCT N AATG	Q I AGTT GGGT CTG CTG TGA V TTG	Y TO TO THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL	GAGGI AGGI TGCI AAAI GAT	B GAAC H ACATC L AATC D TGAC C TTGT	E \ GAAGT  I : ATCAT  CCCTGI  CCAAA	V 458 IC 1 491 IT 524 AA T 55* CC P 596
1783 1882 1983	E GA C 3 TG Y 2 TA 1 AC	CAG MAAT CAA CAA TCA	S CTCC K GAAC TTA TTA LAAC	Q CCAG V GGTA H ACAC	V GTT Y TAC W TTGC K C TTGT	B GAAG R AGAI N BAATO R BAGGO N	E MAGATI R I AGAGI V I STGTI P	F V FGGT FAAGT AAGT ACGT W FGGCC S CTG	Y Q GCAG Y E AGA Y R FTCG P A CTGC	AGAI CAA TTC	H CCAC N AAAT D TGAC TCAC	N CATG	T ACT I ATT B GAL	Y TAC  V TACA  V TACA  V TACA  P TCCT	S TCAT  L CTGC  T ACTI  L TTA	L TAC D EATC I ATAC Y N AAC	P CCTT E BAAA L CTTT	D V ATGT L K IAAA N E ACTT CTGT R (C CGATC	G AGGC AGCT TCAT CAT CAT	G T TACC V TGTG R TCGA	D GATO V GTGO K AAG	A BCCA BCAA E BAA I ATA K AAA	N V STIA T ACAI P CCAC I ATAI	W GGCI K AAG L TAG A CCT N AATG	Q I AGTT GGGT CTG CTG TGA V TTG	Y TO TO THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL	GAGGI AGGI TGCI AAAI GAT	B GAAC H ACATC L AATC D TGAC C TTGT	E \ GAAGT  I : ATCAT  CCCTGI  CCAAA	V 458 IC 1 491 IT 524 AA T 55* CC P 596
1783 1882 1983	E GAL C C TA 2 TA 1 AC	CAG  AAT  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA	S CTCC K GGAAC Y TTTA TTAAC SGAT V SGAT	Q CCAG V GGTA H ACAC V AGTT	V GTT Y TAC W TTGG K C C TTGT	E GAAG R AGAF N RAAT LAGGG	E NAGATI R INGAGE V INDAGE V I	I V IGGI E \ \ D \ \ D \ \ D \ \ ACC	COCAM	N GAACA CAAA CAAA CAAA CAAA CAAA CAAA CA	H CCAC N NAAAN D TTGAC CCAC TTGAC TTGAC TTGAC TTGAC TTGAC	M CATG	T ACT I ATT B GAM AGA GG C D GGA GGA GG C GG C GG C GG C	Y TAC  V CGTT  T LACA  V CGTA  P TCCTI N CAAC	S TCAT  L TCTG  L TTACTA  L TCTA  I CATTA	L TAC D D I ATAC Y N AAAC L CTA	Q AGG	D V ATGT L K TAAA N E ACTT S \ CTGT R \ CGATC K \	GAGGGGAGGGGAGGGGAGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG	G TGGA TACC V TGTG R TCGA CCGI	D GATO  V GTGG  K AAG  A CCCC  V V CCCC  V CCCC  V CCCC  V CCCC  CCCC  CCCC  CCCC  CCCC  CCCC  CCCC	A GCA  A GCA  E GAA  I ATA  K AAA  A GCT	N V V TTTA T P CCAC I ATTA N AATTA	W GGGCI RAGGIL TAG A GGCT N AATGI V GTGA	2 1 AGTT 3 7 33CGT A 1 CTGA V TTGA N ACC	CTGG	V G G AAGGA TGC: N AAAA: G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	B GAAC H ACATC D GAC C C TTGT W	E \GAAGT	V 458 IC 1 491 IT 2 524 AA
1783 1882 1983	E GAL C C 3 TG Y 2 TA 1 AC	CAG  AAT  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA	S CTCCC K GAAGA Y Y TTTA' Y TTTA' Y TTTA' Y TAACC Y I GGAT	Q V V GGTA H H ACAC	V GTT Y TAC W TTGG K K C TTGT	E GAAG R AGAI N BAGGG N TAAT E	E MAGATI R I G GGAA	N V CGGI E \ AAAGI D \ ACGI CTG'	Y Q GCA Y E FAGA Y R TTCG P A TTCG V D TTGGA	N E E AGAN E CAA' S CAA' S TTTC	H CCAC N NAAAT D TGAC TCAC TCAC TTGAC TTGAC	N G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	T ACT I ATT E GAL	Y TAC  V TGTT  T AACA  V CGTA  P TCCTI	S TCAT  L CTGC  T ACTI  L CTAT  I CTA	D EATO I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Q :AGG	D V NATGT L K ITAAA N E NACTT S V CTGT R (C CTGT K L AGAT	G AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGG AG	G CGGA T TACC V TGTG R TCGA R CCGI	D GATC H CATC V GGTG K AAG A CGCC V TGTA	A GCCA  E GATA  K AAAA  A GCCT	N V FITTA  T P CCCAC I ATTA  N AATTA	W GGGCI K AAAG L TAG A AATG V GGTGA	Q 1 AGTT G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1	Y TICALLI O NATAA T ECTGA A M CTAT	V TGTA G AAGGA A TTGCA I I GGAT GGAT GGAT GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA	H ACATO I D TGAC C TTGT W ATGG	E \ GAAGT I T ATCAT P T CCCTGI CCAAA CGAAA I	V 458 TC I 491 TT E 524 AA T 55 CC P 596 CA L 62
1783 1882 1983	E GAL C C 3 TG Y 2 TA 1 AC	CAG  AAT  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA	S CTCC  K GAAG  Y Y TTTA  TTA  LAAC  I I GGAT  V S GAAG	Q V V GGTA H H ACAC	V GTT Y TAC W TTGG K K C TTGT	E GAAG R AGAI N BAGGG N TAAT E	E MAGATI R I G GGAA	N V CGGI E \ AAAGI D \ ACGI CTG'	Y Q GCA Y E FAGA Y R TTCG P A TTCG V D TTGGA	N E E AGAN E CAA' S CAA' S TTTC	H CCAC N NAAAT D TGAC TCAC TCAC TTGAC TTGAC	M G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	T ACT I ATT E GAL	Y TAC  V TGTT  T AACA  V CGTA  P TCCTI	S TCAT  L CTGC  T ACTI  L CTAT  I CTA	D EATO I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Q :AGG	D V NATGT L K ITAAA N E NACTT S V CTGT R (C CTGT K L AGAT	G AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGG AG	G CGGA T TACC V TGTG R TCGA R CCGI	D GATC H CATC V GGTG K AAG A CGCC V TGTA	A GCCA  E GATA  K AAAA  A GCCT	N V FITTA  T P CCCAC I ATTA  N AATTA	W GGGCI K AAAG L TAG A AATG V GGTGA	Q 1 AGTT G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1	Y TICALLI O NATAA T ECTGA A M CTAT	V TGTA G AAGGA A TTGCA I I GGAT GGAT GGAT GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA	H ACATO I D TGAC C TTGT W ATGG	E \ GAAGT I T ATCAT P T CCCTGI CCAAA CGAAA I	V 458 TC I 491 TT E 524 AA T 55 CC P 596 CA L 62
1783 1882 1983	E GAL C C 3 TG Y 2 TA 1 AC	CAG  AAT  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA  CAA	S CTCC  K GAAG  Y Y TTTA  TTA  LAAC  I I GGAT  V S GAAG	Q V V GGTA H H ACAC	V GTT Y TAC W TTGG K K C TTGT	E GAAG R AGAI N BAGGG N TAAT E	E MAGATI R I G GGAA	N V CGGI E \ AAAGI D \ ACGI CTG'	Y Q GCA Y E FAGA Y R TTCG P A TTCG V D TTGGA	N E E AGAN E CAA' S CAA' S TTTC	H CCAC N NAAAT D TGAC TCAC TCAC TTGAC TTGAC	M G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	T ACT I ATT E GAL	Y TAC  V TGTT  T AACA  V CGTA  P TCCTI	S TCAT  L CTGC  T ACTI  L CTAT  I CTA	D EATO I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Q :AGG	D V NATGT L K ITAAA N E NACTT S V CTGT R (C CTGT K L AGAT	G AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGGG AGGG AG	G CGGA T TACC V TGTG R TCGA R CCGI	D GATC H CATC V GGTG K AAG A CGCC V TGTA	A GCCA  E GATA  K AAAA  A GCCT	N V FITTA  T P CCCAC I ATTA N AATTA	W GGGCI K AAAG L TAG A AATG V GGTGA	Q 1 AGTT G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1 G 1	Y TICALLI O NATAA T ECTGA A M CTAT	V TGTA G AAGGA A TTGCA I I GGAT GGAT GGAT GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA GGAGGA	H ACATO I D TGAC C TTGT W ATGG	E \GAAGT	V 458 TC I 491 TT E 524 AA T 55 CC P 596 CA L 62
1783 1882 1983 2086	E GAL	CAG : M AAT : N CAA : N CAA : V CTCA :	S CTCC  K GAAM  Y TTTA  AAC  V S TAAG  K S V S TAAG  S S V S TAAG	Q V V GGTA V V AGTT	V GTT Y TTGG K C C TTGG P ACCG	E GAAGAF R AGAATO R BAGGGGAAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAG	E MAGATIAN CARACTER CONTROL CO	Y V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V	Y Q GCAM Y E FAGA Y R TTCG P A TTCGC V E AGGA K F AGCC	N GAAGAI GAAGAAAAAAAA	H CCAC N AAAAT D TTGAC TTCAC TTGAC	M G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	T ACT I E GAN AGAG A GGC D CGC K	Y TAC  V TACA  V CGTA  P TCCCI  N TCAA  P ATT	S TCAT  L CTGC  T L ACTA  L CCTA  I CATT  L CCTA  L CCTA	L D D I ATAC Y PATAC N AAC CTA K AAAA	Q P CCTT E BAAAA L CTTT N AACCO R CCTTCCT	D V ATGT L K ITAAA N E ACTT CTGT R ( GGATC K : AGA: P '	G AGGC A AGCT H TCAT CAT TTAT TTAT TTAT TTAT TTAT TTAT	G CGGA T TACC V TGTG R TCGA R CCGI Y ATAT	D GATC  H CATC  V GTGG  K AAG  A GGCC  V TGTA  V CGTC	A GCCF A GCAC E GAAA I A A A GCT Q CCAA	N LATT V STTIA P CCCAG I AATAJ N AATAJ	W GGCCT AAGCCT NAATG V GGTGA K AAAAA	2 1 AGTT GGTGT A 1 CCTGT TGA V TTGA N ACCC	L V CGGT V T CAC D N ATAA T E CTGA A M CTAI P G CTGG A G CCAGG	G AGGAAAA	E GAAC  H ACATC  I AATC  C TGAC  C TTGT  W ATGG  P GCCT	E V GAAGT  ATCAT  CCCTG  CCAAA  A GGCAC  I TATTT	V 458 FC I 491 FT E 524 AA T 55 CC P 596 CA L 62
1783 1882 1983 2086	E GAL	CAG : M AAT : N CAA : N CAA : V CTCA :	S CTCC  K GAAM  Y TTTA  AAC  V S TAAG  K S V S TAAG  S S V S TAAG	Q V V GGTA V V AGTT	V GTT Y TTGG K C C TTGG P ACCG	E GAAGAF R AGAATO R BAGGGGAAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAG	E MAGATIAN CARACTER CONTROL CO	Y V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V	Y Q GCAM Y E FAGA Y R TTCG P A TTCGC V E AGGA K F AGCC	N GAAGAI GAAGAAAAAAAA	H CCAC N AAAAT D TTGAC TTCAC TTGAC	M G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	T ACT I E GAN AGAG A GGC D CGC K	Y TAC  V TACA  V CGTA  P TCCCI  N TCAA  P ATT	S TCAT  L CTGC  T L ACTA  L CCTA  I CATT  L CCTA  L CCTA	L D D I ATAC Y PATAC N AAC CTA K AAAA	Q P CCTT E BAAAA L CTTT N AACCO R CCTTCCT	D V ATGT L K ITAAA N E ACTT CTGT R ( GGATC K : AGA: P '	G AGGC A AGCT H TCAT CAT TTAT TTAT TTAT TTAT TTAT TTAT	G CGGA T TACC V TGTG R TCGA R CCGI Y ATAT	D GATC  H CATC  V GTGG  K AAG  A GGCC  V TGTA  V CGTC	A GCCF A GCAC E GAAA I A A A GCT Q CCAA	N LATT V STTIA P CCCAG I AATAJ N AATAJ	W GGCCT AAGCCT NAATG V GGTGA K AAAAA	2 1 AGTT GGCGT A 1 CCTGA V TTGA V TTGA	L V CGGT V T CAC D N ATAA T E CTGA A M CTAI P G CTGG A G CCAGG	G A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	E GAAC  H ACATC  I AATC  C TGAC  C TTGT  W ATGG  P GCCT	E \ GAAGT I T ATCAT P T CCCTGI CCAAA CGAAA I	V 458 FC I 491 FT E 524 AA T 55 CC P 596 CA L 62

2377 TACTATGTTTTT

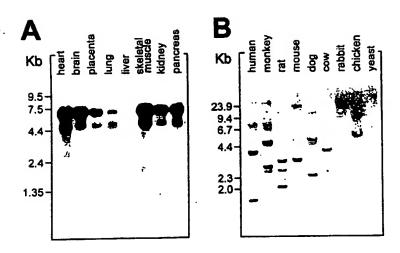


FIG. 2

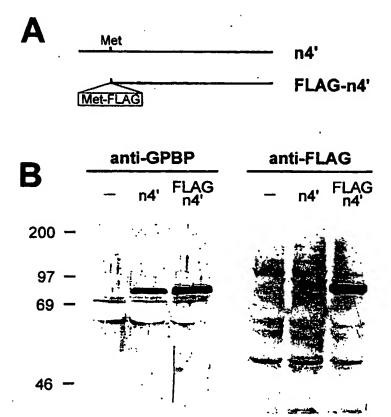
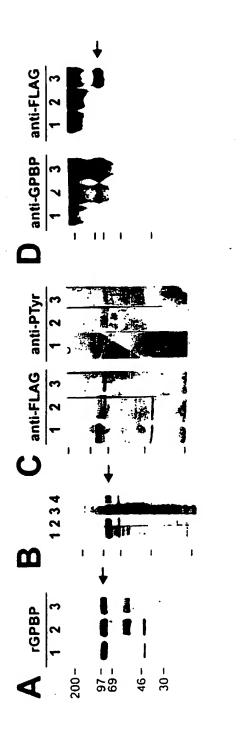
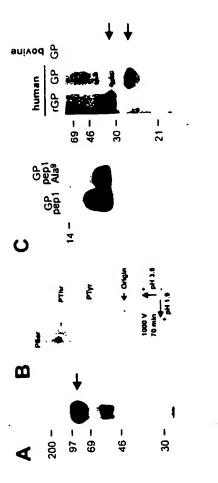


FIG. 3





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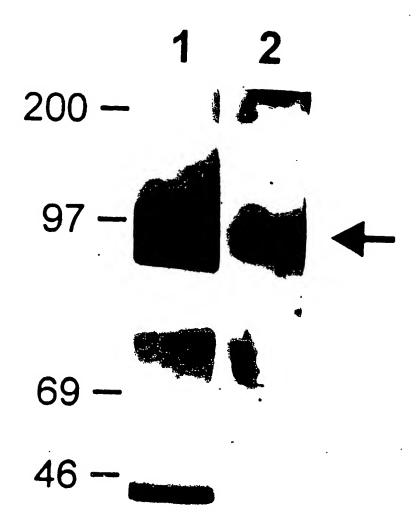


FIG. 6

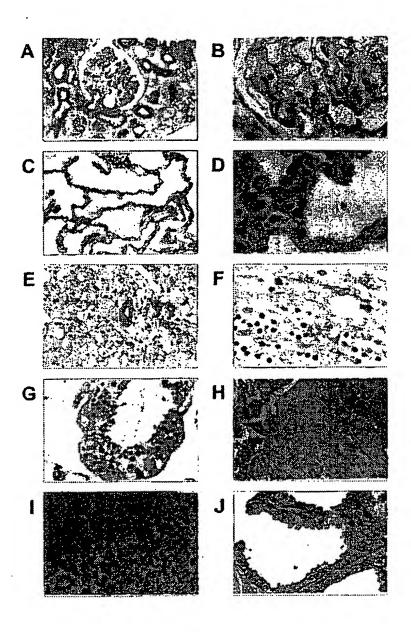
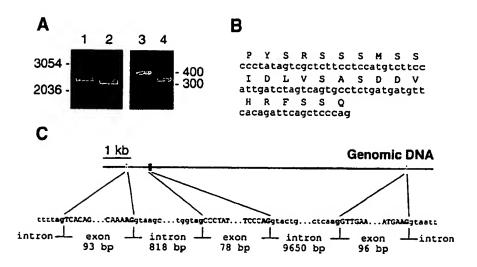


FIG. 7



**FIG. 8** 

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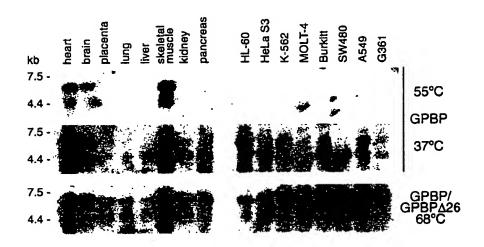


FIG. 9

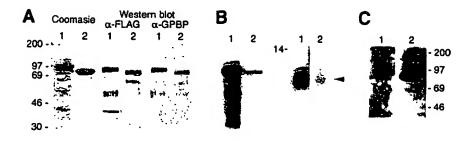


FIG. 10

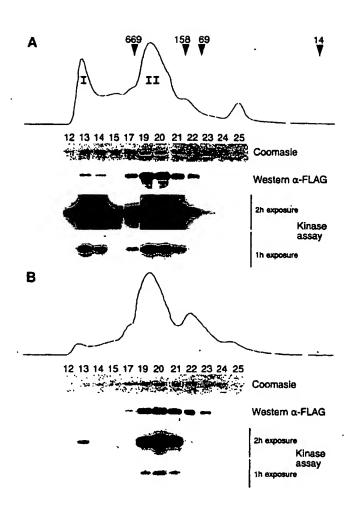
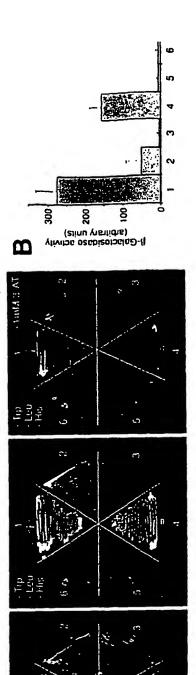
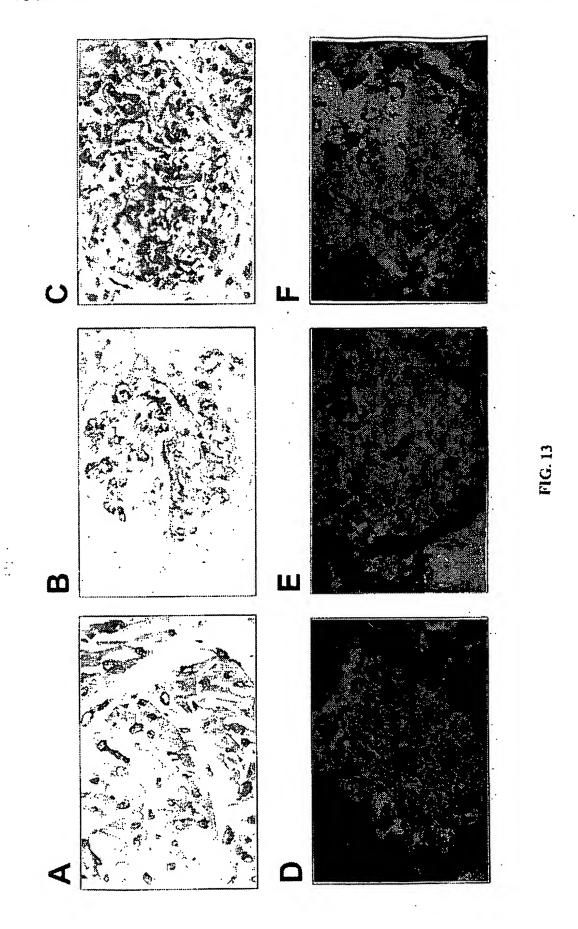
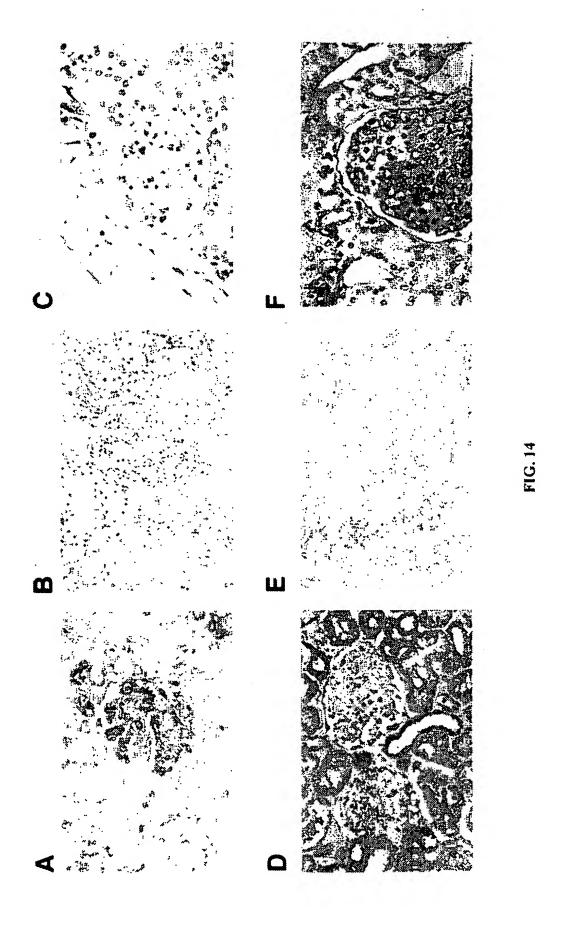


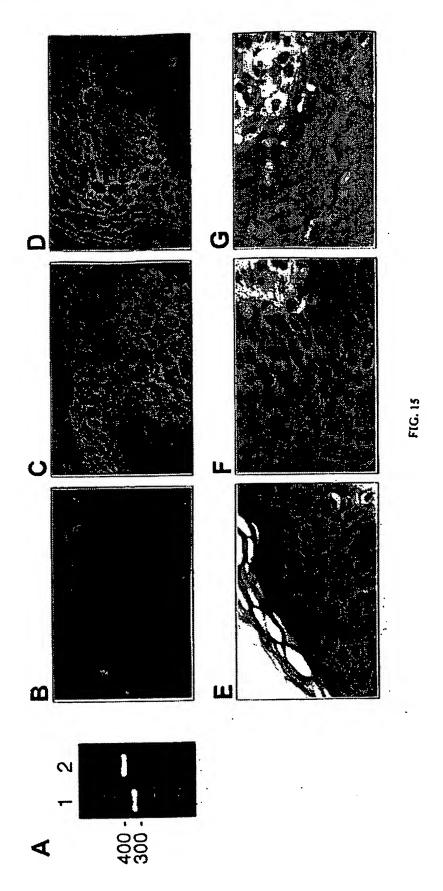
FIG. 11











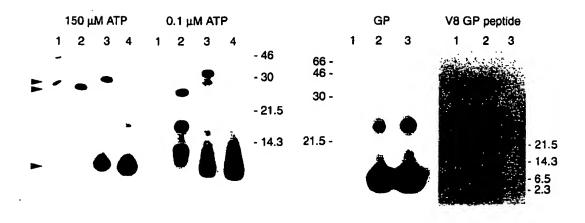


FIG. 16

GP∆III	GLKG <u>KRGDS</u> GSPATWTTRGFVFTRHSQTTAI
MBP	MASOKRP-SORHGSKYLATASTMDHARHGFL
an 1 = = =	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
GP∆III	PSCPEGPVPLYSGFSFLFVQGNQRAHGQDLD
MBP	PRHRDTGILDSIGRFFGGDRGAPKRGSGK
GP∆III	ALFVKVLRSP
	····1··111
MBP	VPWLKPGRSP

FIG. 17

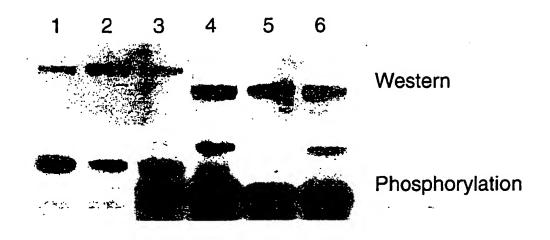


FIG. 18

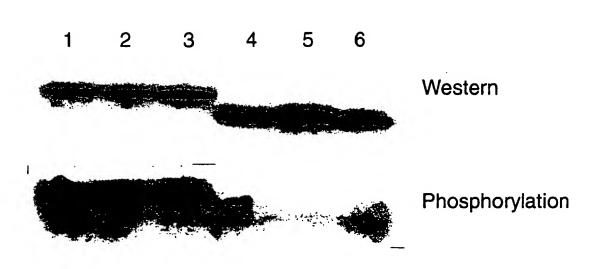


FIG. 19

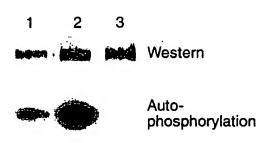


FIG. 20

PCT/EP02/01010

FIG. 21

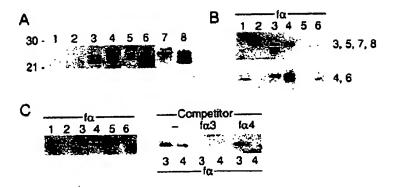


FIG. 22

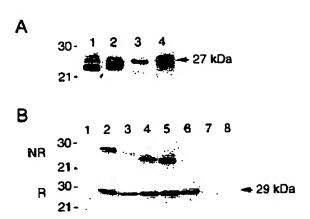


FIG. 23

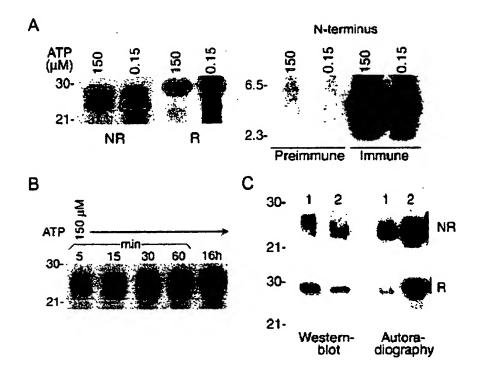


FIG. 24



FIG. 25

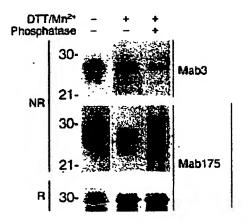


FIG. 26

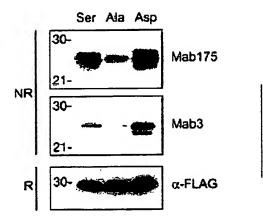


FIG. 27

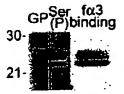


FIG. 28

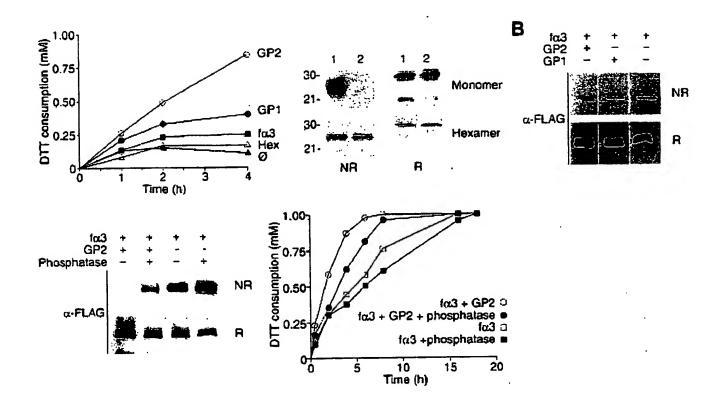


FIG. 29

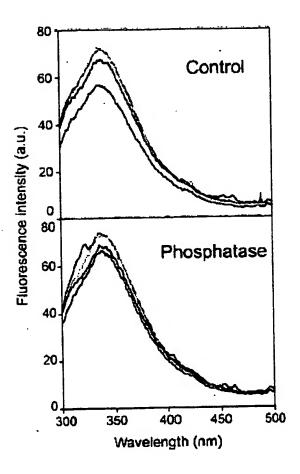


FIG. 31

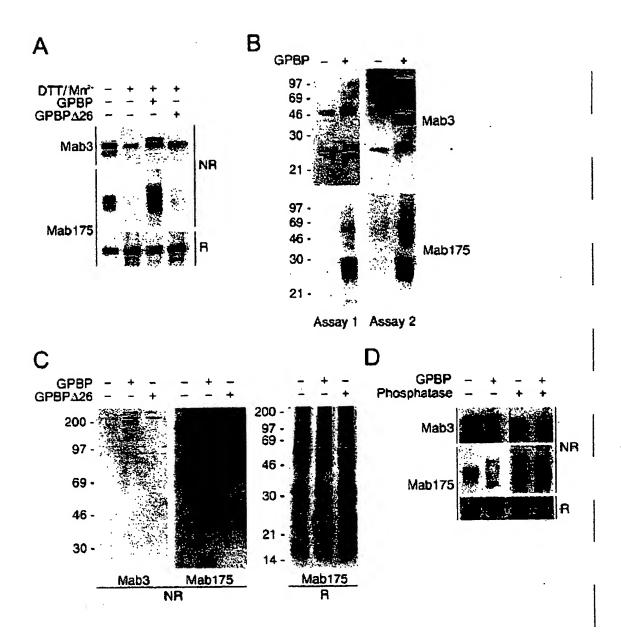


FIG. 32

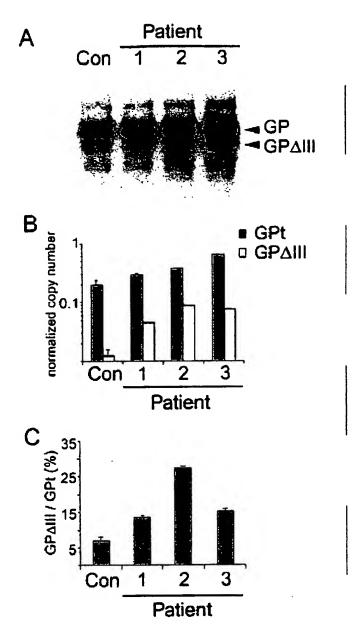


FIG. 33

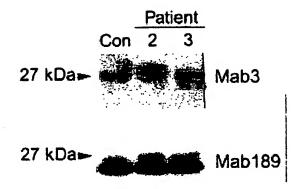


FIG. 34

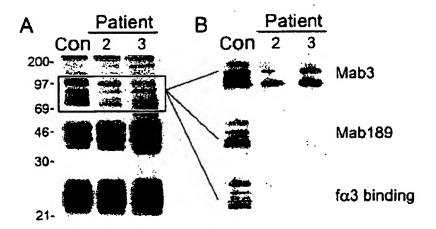


FIG. 35

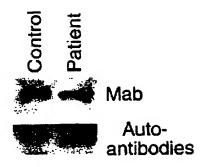
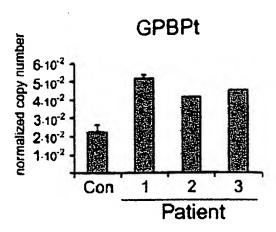
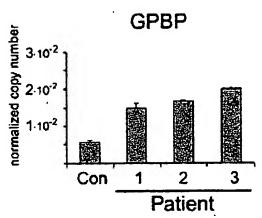


FIG. 36





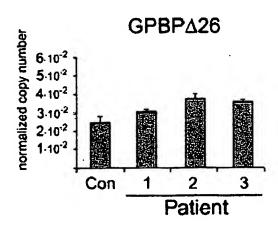
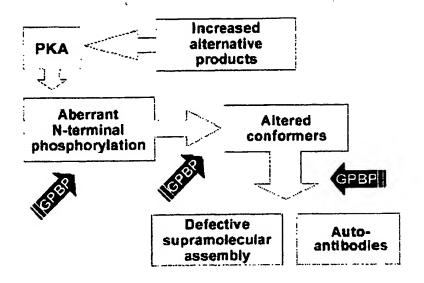


FIG. 37



## SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Saus, Juan <120> Methods and Reagents for Treating Autoimmune Disorders <130> 150-182 <150> 60/265,249 <151> January 31, 2001 <160> 84 <170> PatentIn Ver. 2.0 <210> 1 <211> 2389 <212> DNA <213> Homo sapiens <220> <221> CDS <222> (409)..(2280) <400> 1 gcaggaagat ggcggcggta gcggaggtgt gagtggacgc gggactcagc ggccggattt 60 tetetteeet tetttteeet ttteetteee tatttgaaat tggeategag ggggetaagt 120 tegggtggea gegeegggeg caacgeaggg gteacggega eggeggegge ggetgaegge 180 tggaagggta ggcttcattc accgctcgtc ctccttcctc gctccgctcg gtgtcaggcg 240 cggcggcggc gcggcgggcg gacttcgtcc ctcctcctgc tccccccac accggagcgg 300 geactetteg ettegecate eccegaceet teacceegag gaetgggege etecteegge 360 gcagetgagg gageggggge eggteteetg eteggttgte gageetee atg teg gat 417 Met Ser Asp aat cag agc tgg aac tcg tcg ggc tcg gag gag gat cca gag acg gag 465 Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro Glu Thr Glu tet ggg eeg eet gtg gag ege tge ggg gte ete agt aag tgg aca aac 513 Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Lys Trp Thr Asn tac att cat ggg tgg cag gat cgt tgg gta gtt ttg aaa aat aat gct Tyr Ile His Gly Trp Gln Asp Arg Trp Val Val Leu Lys Asn Asn Ala ctg agt tac tac aaa tct gaa gat gaa aca gag tat ggc tgc aga gga Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly Cys Arg Gly 55 60

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											tgg Trp 95					705
											gcc Ala					753
aag Lys	act Thr	gaa Glu	tct Ser	gga Gly 120	tat Tyr	gga Gly	tct Ser	gaa Glu	tcc Ser 125	agc Ser	ttg Leu	cgt Arg	cga Arg	cat His 130	ggc Gly	801
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atg Met	gaa Glu 165	aca Thr	ttt Phe	aga Arg	gac Asp	atc Ile 170	tta Leu	tgt Cys	aga Arg	caa Gln	gtt Val 175	gac Asp	acg Thr	cta Leu	cag Gln	945
aag Lys 180	tac Tyr	ttt Phe	gat Asp	gcc Ala	tgt Cys 185	gct Ala	gat Asp	gct Ala	gtc Val	tct Ser 190	aag Lys	gat Asp	gaa Glu	ctt Leu	caa Gln 195	993
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					gct Ala											1425
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					tta Leu											1665
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			615					020								
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T	hr	Leu	Gln	Lys 180	Tyr	Phe	Asp	Ala	Cys 185	Ala	Asp	Ala	Val	Ser 190	Lys	Asp
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G	ln	Lys 370	Pro	Tyr	Ser	Arg	Ser 375	Ser	Ser	Met	Ser	Ser 380	Ile	Asp	Leu	Val
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420 425 430

Glu Val Glu Glu Asn Gly Ile Val Leu Asp Pro Leu Lys Ala Thr His
435 440 445

Ala Val Lys Gly Val Thr Gly His Glu Val Cys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Asn 450 460

Val Asp Val Arg Asn Asp Trp Glu Thr Thr Ile Glu Asn Phe His Val 465 470 475 480

Val Glu Thr Leu Ala Asp Asn Ala Ile Ile Ile Tyr Gln Thr His Lys
485 490 495

Arg Val Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Asp Val Leu Tyr Leu Ser Val Ile 500 505 510

Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Thr Glu Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val 515 520 525

Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp Ser Ala Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys 530 540

Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Val Ala Met Ile Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser 545 550 555 560

Pro Pro Glu Gly Asn Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys
565 570 575

Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser 580 585 590

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										gca Ala 245						1193
										cat His						1241
										cac His						1289
										aat Asn						1337
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				ata Ile												2057
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				gta Val												2153
				tgc Cys 575												2201
				gct Ala												2249
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35 40 45

Asn Asn Thr Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly
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Cys Arg Gly Ser Ile Cys Leu Ser Lys Ala Val Ile Thr Pro His Asp 65 70 75 80

Phe Asp Glu Cys Arg Phe Asp Ile Ser Val Asn Asp Ser Val Trp Tyr 85 90 95

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Glu Gln His Lys Thr Glu Ser Gly Tyr Gly Ser Glu Ser Ser Leu Arg 115 120 . 125

Arg His Gly Ser Met Val Ser Leu Val Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Tyr Ser 130 135 140

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Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Thr Glu Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp Ser Ala Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys 530 535 Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Ile Ala Met Ile Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser 550 Pro Pro Glu Gly Asp Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys 570 575 Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser 585 Val Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Lys Arg Glu Tyr Pro Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg Phe Thr Ser Tyr Val Gln Glu Lys Thr Ala Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe <210> 5 <211> 2361 <212> DNA <213> Bos taurus <220> <221> CDS <222> (421)..(2292) <400> 5 cggcaggaag atggcggcct agcggaggtg tgagtggacc tgggtctctg cagctgggtt 60 ttccctcttc ccgtctttct cctcttttcc tctcccccga ggttggcatc gagggggcca 120 aattogggcg gcggcgccgg gcgcagcgca ggggtcacaa cgacggcgac ggctgacggt 180 tggaagggca ggetteette geceetegae eteetteese ggteegettg gtgteaggeg 240 cggcggcggc ggcggcggc gcgcggcggg cggactccat ccctcctcc gctccctcct 300 gcaccggagc gggcactcct tccttcgcca tcccccgacc cttcaccccg gggactgggc 360 gcctccaccg gcgcagctca gggagcgggg gccggtctcc tgctcggctg tcgcgcctcc 420 atg tcg gat aac cag agc tgg aac tcg tcg ggc tcg gag gat ccg Met Ser Asp Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro gag acg gag tcc ggg ccg ccg gtg gag cgc tgc gga gtc ctc aac aag Glu Thr Glu Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Asn Lys 20 tgg aca aac tat att cat ggg tgg cag gat cgc tgg gta gtt ttg aaa 564 Trp Thr Asn Tyr Ile His Gly Trp Gln Asp Arg Trp Val Val Leu Lys

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										cag Gln						756
										tct Ser						804
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										cac His 155						900
										ctg Leu						948
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										aat Asn						1092
										gga Gly 235						1140
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gtg Val	gaa Glu	aca Thr	tta Leu	gct Ala 485	gat Asp	aat Asn	gca Ala	Ile	atc Ile 490	att Ile	tat Tyr	caa Gln	acg Thr	cac His 495	aag Lys	1908

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					ttg Leu											2004
					gat Asp											2052
					aac Asn 550											2100
					cag Gln											2148
					aat Asn											2196
					gca Ala											2244
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	50				Tyr	55					60					
Cys 65	Arg	Gly	Ser	Ile	Cys 70	Leu	Ser	Lys	Ala	Val 75	Ile	Thr	Pro	His	Asp 80	

Pne	Asp	GIU	Cys	Arg 85	Pne	ASP	IIe	ser	90		изр	ser	vaı	95	Tyr
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Glu	Gln	His 115	Lys	Thr	Glu	Ser	Gly 120	Tyr	Gly	Ser	Glu	Ser 125	Ser	Leu	Arg
Arg	His 130	Gly	Ser	Met	Val	Ser 135	Leu	Val	Ser	Gly	Ala 140	Ser	Gly	Tyr	Ser
Ala 145	Thr	Ser	Thr	Ser	Ser 150	Phe	Lys	Lys	Gly	His 155	Ser	Leu	Arg	Glu	Lys 160
Leu	Ala	Glu	Met	Glu 165	Thr	Phe	Arg	Asp	Ile 170	Leu	Cys	Arg	Gln	Val 175	Asp
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Glu	Phe	Gln 195	Arg	Asp	Lys	Val	Val 200	Glu	Asp	Asp	Glu	Asp 205	Asp	Phe	Pro
Thr	Thr 210	Arg	Ser	Asp	Gly	Asp 215	Phe	Leu	His	Asn	Thr 220	Asn	Gly	Asn	Lys
Glu 225	Lys	Val	Phe	Pro	His 230	Val	Thr	Pro	Lys	Gly 235	Ile	Asn	Gly	Ile	Asp 240
Phe	Lys	Gly	Glu	Ala 245	Ile	Thr	Phe	Lys	Ala 250	Thr	Thr	Ala	Gly	Ile 255	Leu
Ala	Thr	Leu	Ser 260	His	Cys	Ile	Glu	Leu 265	Met	Val	Lys	Arg	Glu 270	Asp	Ser
Trp	Gln	Lys 275	Arg	Met	Asp	Lys	Glu 280	Thr	Glu	Lys	Arg	Arg 285	Arg	Val	Glu
Glu	Ala 290	Tyr	Lys	Asn	Ala	Met 295	Thr	Glu	Leu	Lys	Lys 300	Lys	Ser	His	Phe
Gly 305	Gly	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Glu 310	Glu	Gly	Pro	Asn	Ser 315	Leu	Ile	Asn	Glu	Glu 320
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Glu	Glu	Gln	Ser 340	Gln	Ser	Glu	Lys	Val 345	Arg	Leu	His	Trp	Ser 350	Thr	Ser
Met	Pro	Ser 355	Gly	Asp	Ala	Phe	Ser 360	Ser	Val	Gly	Thr	His 365	Arg	Phe	Val
Gln	Lys 370	Pro	Tyr	Ser	Arg	Ser 375	Ser	Ser	Met	Ser	Ser 380	Ile	Asp	Leu	Val

Ser Ala Ser Asp Gly Val His Arg Phe Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Glu Met Val Gln Asn His Met Thr Tyr Ser Leu Gln Asp Val Gly Gly Asp Ala Asn Trp Gln Leu Val Val Glu Glu Gly Glu Met Lys Val Tyr Arg Arg 425 Glu Val Glu Glu Asn Gly Ile Val Leu Asp Pro Leu Lys Ala Thr His 435 Ala Val Lys Gly Val Thr Gly His Glu Val Cys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Asn Val Asp Val Arg Asn Asp Trp Glu Thr Thr Ile Glu Asn Phe His Val 475 Val Glu Thr Leu Ala Asp Asn Ala Ile Ile Ile Tyr Gln Thr His Lys 490 Arg Val Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Asp Val Leu Tyr Leu Ser Ala Ile 505 Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Asn Glu Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Ser Ser Ala Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys 535 Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Val Ala Met Ile Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser 550 Pro Pro Glu Gly Asn Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Lys Arg Glu Tyr Pro Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg 600 Phe Thr Ser Tyr Val Gln Glu Lys Thr Ala Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe 610 615 <210> 7 <211> 2187 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Human GPBP26 <220> <221> CDS

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tct Ser 585	tac Tyr	gtc Val	caa Gln	gaa Glu	aaa Lys 590	act Thr	gca Ala	gga Gly	Lys	cct Pro 595	att Ile	ttg Leu	ttc Phe	tag		2187

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Asn Asn Ala Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly
50 55 60

Cys Arg Gly Ser Ile Cys Leu Ser Lys Ala Val Ile Thr Pro His Asp 65 70 75 80

Phe Asp Glu Cys Arg Phe Asp Ile Ser Val Asn Asp Ser Val Trp Tyr 85 90 95

Leu Arg Ala Gln Asp Pro Asp His Arg Gln Gln Trp Ile Asp Ala Ile 100 105 110

Glu Gln His Lys Thr Glu Ser Gly Tyr Gly Ser Glu Ser Ser Leu Arg 115 120 125

Arg His Gly Ser Met Val Ser Leu Val Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Tyr Ser 130 135 140

Ala Thr Ser Thr Ser Ser Phe Lys Lys Gly His Ser Leu Arg Glu Lys 145 150 155 160

Leu Ala Glu Met Glu Thr Phe Arg Asp Ile Leu Cys Arg Gln Val Asp 165 170 175

Thr Leu Gln Lys Tyr Phe Asp Ala Cys Ala Asp Ala Val Ser Lys Asp 180 185 190

Glu Leu Gln Arg Asp Lys Val Val Glu Asp Asp Glu Asp Asp Phe Pro 195 200 205

Thr Thr Arg Ser Asp Gly Asp Phe Leu His Ser Thr Asn Gly Asn Lys 210 215 220

Glu Lys Leu Phe Pro His Val Thr Pro Lys Gly Ile Asn Gly Ile Asp 225 230 235 240

Phe Lys Gly Glu Ala Ile Thr Phe Lys Ala Thr Thr Ala Gly Ile Leu 245 250 255

Ala Thr Leu Ser His Cys Ile Glu Leu Met Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ser 260 265 270

Trp Gln Lys Arg Leu Asp Lys Glu Thr Glu Lys Lys Arg Arg Thr Glu 275 Glu Ala Tyr Lys Asn Ala Met Thr Glu Leu Lys Lys Lys Ser His Phe Gly Gly Pro Asp Tyr Glu Glu Gly Pro Asn Ser Leu Ile Asn Glu Glu 305 310 Glu Phe Phe Asp Ala Val Glu Ala Ala Leu Asp Arg Gln Asp Lys Ile Glu Glu Gln Ser Gln Ser Glu Lys Val Arg Leu His Trp Pro Thr Ser 340 345 Leu Pro Ser Gly Asp Ala Phe Ser Ser Val Gly Thr His Arg Phe Val Gln Lys Val Glu Glu Met Val Gln Asn His Met Thr Tyr Ser Leu Gln 375 Asp Val Gly Gly Asp Ala Asn Trp Gln Leu Val Val Glu Glu Gly Glu Met Lys Val Tyr Arg Arg Glu Val Glu Glu Asn Gly Ile Val Leu Asp 410 Pro Leu Lys Ala Thr His Ala Val Lys Gly Val Thr Gly His Glu Val Cys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Asn Val Asp Val Arg Asn Asp Trp Glu Thr Thr 440 Ile Glu Asn Phe His Val Val Glu Thr Leu Ala Asp Asn Ala Ile Ile 450 455 Ile Tyr Gln Thr His Lys Arg Val Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Asp Val 475 Leu Tyr Leu Ser Val Ile Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Thr Glu Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp Ser Ala 505 Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Val Ala Met Ile 515 Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser Pro Pro Glu Gly Asn Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly 545 555 Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Lys Arg Glu Tyr

570

565

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tct Ser	gag Glu	tcc Ser 125	Ser	ttg Leu	cgt Arg	aga Arg	cat His 130	ggc Gly	tca Ser	atg Met	gtg Val	tca Ser 135	ctg Leu	gtg Val	tct Ser	857
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aat Asn	açc Thr 220	aat Asn	ggt Gly	aat Asn	aaa Lys	gaa Glu 225	aaa Lys	tta Leu	ttt Phe	cca Pro	cat His 230	gta Val	aca Thr	cca Pro	aaa Lys	1145
gga Gly 235	att Ile	aat Asn	gly Gly	ata Ile	gac Asp 240	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	ggg Gly	gaa Glu	gca Ala 245	ata Ile	act Thr	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	gca Ala 250	1193
act Thr	act Thr	gct Ala	gga Gly	atc Ile 255	ctt Leu	gct Ala	aca Thr	ctt Leu	tct Ser 260	cat His	tgt Cys	att Ile	gaa Glu	tta Leu 265	atg Met	1241
gta Val	aaa Lys	cgg Arg	gaa Glu 270	gag Glu	agc Ser	tgg Trp	caa Gln	aaa Lys 275	aga Arg	cac His	gat Asp	agg Arg	gaa Glu 280	gtg Val	gaa Glu	1289
											Val			gaa Glu		1337
aag Lys	aag Lys 300	aaa Lys	ccc Pro	cgt Arg	ttc Phe	gga Gly 305	ggg Gly	ccg Pro	gat Asp	tat Tyr	gaa Glu 310	gaa Glu	ggt Gly	cca Pro	aac Asn	1385

agt Ser 315	Leu	att Ile	aat Asn	gag Glu	gaa Glu 320	gag Glu	ttc Phe	ttt Phe	gat Asp	gct Ala 325	Val	gaa Glu	gct Ala	gct	ctt Leu 330	1433
gac Asp	aga Arg	caa Gln	gat Asp	aaa Lys 335	ata Ile	gag Glu	gaa Glu	cag Gln	tca Ser 340	cag Gln	agt Ser	gaa Glu	aag Lys	gtc Val 345	agg Arg	1481
tta Leu	cac His	tgg Trp	ccc Pro 350	aca Thr	tca Ser	ttg Leu	cca Pro	tct Ser 355	gga Gly	gac Asp	acc	ttt Phe	tct Ser 360	tct Ser	gtc Val	1529
ggg	acg Thr	cat His 365	aga Arg	ttt Phe	gta Val	caa Gln	aag Lys 370	gtt Val	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	atg Met	gta Val 375	cag Gln	aac Asn	cac His	1577
atg Met	aac Asn 380	tat Tyr	tca Ser	tta Leu	cag Gln	gat Asp 385	gta Val	ggt Gly	ggt Gly	gat Asp	gca Ala 390	aat Asn	tgg Trp	caa Gln	ctg Leu	1625
gtt Val 395	gtt Val	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gga Gly	gaa Glu 400	atg Met	aag Lys	gta Val	tac Tyr	aga Arg 405	aga Arg	gaa Glu	gtg Val	gaa Glu	gaa Glu 410	1673
aat Asn	gga Gly	att Ile	gtt Val	ctg Leu 415	gat Asp	cct Pro	ttg Leu	aaa Lys	gct Ala 420	act Thr	cat His	gca Ala	gtt Val	aaa Lys 425	ggt Gly	1721
gtt Val	aca Thr	gga Gly	cat His 430	gag Glu	gtc Val	tgc Cys	aat Asn	tac Tyr 435	ttt Phe	tgg Trp	aat Asn	gtt Val	gat Asp 440	gtt Val	cgc Arg	1769
aat Asn	gac Asp	tgg Trp 445	gaa Glu	act Thr	act Thr	ata Ile	gaa Glu 450	aac Asn	ttt Phe	cat His	gtg Val	gtg Val 455	gaa Glu	aca Thr	tta Leu	1817
gct Ala	gat Asp 460	aat Asn	gca Ala	atc Ile	atc Ile	gtt Val 465	tat Tyr	caa Gln	acg Thr	cac His	aag Lys 470	aga Arg	gta Val	tgg Trp	ccc Pro	1865
gct Ala 475	tct Ser	cag Gln	aga Arg	gac Asp	gta Val 480	ctg Leu	tat Tyr	ctt Leu	tct Ser	gct Ala 485	att Ile	cga Arg	aag Lys	atc Ile	cca Pro 490	1913
gcc Ala	ttg Leu	act Thr	gaa Glu	aat Asn 495	gat Asp	cct Pro	gaa Glu	act Thr	tgg Trp 500	ata Ile	gtt Val	tgt Cys	aat Asn	ttt Phe 505	tct Ser	1961
gtg Val	gat Asp	cat His	gat Asp 510	agt Ser	gct Ala	cct Pro	ctg Leu	aac Asn 515	aat Asn	cga Arg	tgt Cys	gtc Val	cgt Arg 520	gcc Ala	aaa Lys	2009
atc Ile	Asn	att Ile 525	gct Ala	atg Met	att Ile	Cys	caa Gln 530	act Thr	tta Leu	gta Val	agc Ser	cca Pro 535	cca Pro	gag Glu	gga Gly	2057
gac	cag	gag	ata	agc	aga	gac	aac	att	ctg	tgc	aag	atc	acg	tat	gta	2105

Asp Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val 540 545 gct aat gtg aac cca gga gga tgg gcg cca gct tcg gtc tta aga gca 2153 Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala 555 560 gtg gca aag cga gaa tac cct aag ttt cta aaa cgt ttt act tct tat 2201 Val Ala Lys Arg Glu Tyr Pro Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg Phe Thr Ser Tyr 580 575 gtc caa gaa aaa act gca gga aaa cca att ttg ttt tagtattaac 2247 Val Gln Glu Lys Thr Ala Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe 590 595 aqtqactgaa qcaaqqctqc qtqacqttcc atqttqqaqa aaqqaqqqaa aaaataaaaa 2307 gaatcctcta agctggaacg taggatctac agccttgtct gtggcccaag aagaaacatt 2367 gcaatcgtaa agctgggtat ccagcactag ccatctcctg ctaggcctcc tcgctcagcg 2427 tgtaactata aatacatgta gaatcacatg gatatggcta tatttttatt tgcttgctcc 2487 ttqqaqtqaa aacaaataac tttqaattac aactaggaat taaccgatgc tttaattttg 2547 aggaactttt tcagaatttt ttatttacca tggtccaacc taagatcctc agttgtatca 2607 agtttttgtg cacaaaagaa aagcacaaaa gttgaacgca cctgaaggca tgtgctctct 2667 2684 gtgcaacaaa tactcag <210> 10 <211> 598 <212> PRT <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Murine GPBP26 <400> 10 Met Ser Asp Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro Glu Thr Glu Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Lys Trp Thr Asn Tyr Ile His Gly Trp Gln Asp Arg Trp Val Val Leu Lys 35 Asn Asn Thr Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly Cys Arg Gly Ser Ile Cys Leu Ser Lys Ala Val Ile Thr Pro His Asp 65 70 75 Phe Asp Glu Cys Arg Phe Asp Ile Ser Val Asn Asp Ser Val Trp Tyr

				85					90				•	95	
Leu	Arg	Ala	Gln 100	Asp	Pro	Glu	His	Arg 105	Gln	Gln	Trp	Val	Asp 110	Ala	Ile
Glu	Gln	His 115	Lys	Thr	Glu	Ser	Gly 120	Tyr	Gly	Ser	Glu	Ser 125	Ser	Leu	Arg
Arg	His 130	Gly	Ser	Met	Val	Ser 135	Leu	Val	Ser	Gly	Ala 140	Ser	Gly	Tyr	Ser
Ala 145	Thr	Ser	Thr	Ser	Ser 150	Phe	Lys	Lys	Gly	His 155	Ser	Leu	Arg	Glu	Lys 160
Leu	Ala	Glu	Met	Glu 165	Thr	Phe	Arg	Asp	Ile 170	Leu	Cys	Arg	Gln	Val 175	Asp
Thr	Leu	Gln	Lys 180	Tyr	Phe	Asp	Val	Cys 185	Ala	Asp	Ala	Val	Ser 190	Lys	Asp
Glu	Leu	Gln 195	Arg	Asp	Lys	Val	Val 200	Glu	Asp	Asp	Glu	Asp 205	Asp	Phe	Pro
Thr	Thr 210	Arg	Ser	Asp	Gly	Asp 215	Phe	Leu	His	Asn	Thr 220	Asn	Gly	Asn	Lys
Glu 225	Lys	Leu	Phe	Pro	His 230	Val	Thr	Pro	Lys	Gly 235	Ile	Asn	Gly	Ile	Asp 240
Phe	Lys	Gly	Glu	Ala 2 <b>4</b> 5	Ile	Thr	Phe	Lys	Ala 250	Thr	Thr	Ala	Gly	Ile 255	Leu
Ala	Thr	Leu	Ser 260	His	Cys	Ile	Glu	Leu 265	Met	Val	Lys	Arg	Glu 270	Glu	Ser
Trp	Gln	Lys 275	Arg	His	Asp	Arg	Glu 280	Val	Glu	Lys	Arg	Arg 285	Arg	Val	Glu
Glu	Ala 290	Tyr	Lys	Asn	Val	Met 295	Glu	Glu	Leu	Lys	Lys 300	Lys	Pro	Arg	Phe
Gly 305	Gly	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Glu 310	Glu	Gly	Pro	Asn	Ser 315	Leu	Ile	Asn	Glu	Glu 320
Glu	Phe	Phe	Asp	Ala 325	Val	Glu	Ala	Ala	Leu 330	Asp	Arg	Gln	Asp	Lys 335	Ile
Glu	Glu	Gln	Ser 340	Gln	Ser	Glu	Lys	Val 345	Arg	Leu	His	Trp	Pro 350	Thr	Ser
Leu	Pro	Ser 355	Gly	Asp	Thr	Phe	Ser 360	Ser	Val	Gly	Thr	His 365	Arg	Phe	Val
Gln	Lys 370	Val	Glu	Glu	Met	Val 375	Gln	Asn	His	Met	Asn 380	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Gln
Asp	Val	Gly	Gly	Asp	Ala	Asn	Trp	Gln	Leu	Val	Val	Glu	Glu	Gly	Glu

385 390 395 400 Met Lys Val Tyr Arg Arg Glu Val Glu Glu Asn Gly Ile Val Leu Asp 410 405 Pro Leu Lys Ala Thr His Ala Val Lys Gly Val Thr Gly His Glu Val Cys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Asn Val Asp Val Arg Asn Asp Trp Glu Thr Thr 440 445 Ile Glu Asn Phe His Val Val Glu Thr Leu Ala Asp Asn Ala Ile Ile 455 Val Tyr Gln Thr His Lys Arg Val Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Asp Val 475 Leu Tyr Leu Ser Ala Ile Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Thr Glu Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp Ser Ala 505 Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Ile Ala Met Ile 520 515 Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser Pro Pro Glu Gly Asp Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg 535 Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly 555 545 Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Lys Arg Glu Tyr 570 Pro Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg Phe Thr Ser Tyr Val Gln Glu Lys Thr Ala 585 Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe 595 <210> 11 <211> 2283 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Bovine GPBP26 <220> <221> CDS <222> (421)..(2214) <400> 11 cggcaggaag atggcggcct agcggaggtg tgagtggacc tgggtctctg cagctgggtt 60

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aat	tcgg	gcg	gcgg	cgcc	gg g	cgca	gcgc	a gg	ggtc	acaa	cga	cggc	gac	ggct	gacggt	180
tgg	aagg	gca	ggct	tcct	tc g	cccc	tcga	c ct	cctt	cccc	ggt	ccgc	ttg	gtgt	caggcg	240
cgg	cggc	ggc	ggcg	gcgg	cg g	cgcg	gcgg	g cg	gact	ccat	ccc	tcct	ccc	gctc	cctcct	300
gca	ccgg	agc	gggc	actc	ct t	cctt	cgcc	a tc	cccc	gacc	ctt	cacc	ccg	ggga	ctgggc	360
gcc	tcca	ccg	gcgc	agct	ca g	ggag	cggg	g gc	cggt	ctcc	tgc	tcgg	ctg	tcgc	gcctcc	420
atg Met 1	Ser	gat Asp	aac Asn	cag Gln 5	Ser	tgg Trp	aac Asn	tcg Ser	tcg Ser 10	Gly	tcg Ser	gag Glu	gag Glu	gat Asp 15	ccg Pro	468
gag Glu	acg Thr	gag Glu	tcc Ser 20	Gly	ccg Pro	ccg Pro	gtg Val	gag Glu 25	cgc Arg	tgc Cys	gga Gly	gtc Val	ctc Leu 30	aac Asn	aag Lys	516
tgg Trp	aca Thr	aac Asn 35	tat Tyr	att Ile	cat His	ggg Gly	tgg Trp 40	cag Gln	gat Asp	cgc Arg	tgg Trp	gta Val 45	gtt Val	ttg Leu	aaa Lys	564
aat Asn	aac Asn 50	act Thr	ctg Leu	agt Ser	tac Tyr	tac Tyr 55	aaa Lys	tct Ser	gaa Glu	gat Asp	gag Glu 60	aca Thr	gag Glu	tat Tyr	ggc Gly	612
tgc Cys 65	aga Arg	gga Gly	tcc Ser	atc Ile	tgt Cys 70	ctt Leu	agc Ser	aag Lys	gct Ala	gtc Val 75	atc Ile	acg Thr	cct Pro	cat His	gat Asp 80	660
ttt Phe	gat Asp	gaa Glu	tgc Cys	cga Arg 85	ttt Phe	gat Asp	att Ile	agt Ser	gta Val 90	aat Asn	gat Asp	agt Ser	gtt Val	tgg Trp 95	tat Tyr	708
														gcc Ala		756
gaa Glu	cag Gln	cac His 115	aag Lys	act Thr	gaa Glu	tct Ser	gga Gly 120	tat Tyr	gga Gly	tct Ser	gaa Glu	tcc Ser 125	agc Ser	ttg Leu	cgt Arg	804
cga Arg	cat His 130	ggc Gly	tcc Ser	atg Met	gta Val	tca Ser 135	ttg Leu	gta Val	tcc Ser	gga Gly	gca Ala 140	agt Ser	ggc Gly	tat Tyr	tct Ser	852
gca Ala 145	aca Thr	tcc Ser	acc Thr	tcc Ser	tca Ser 150	ttc Phe	aag Lys	aag Lys	ggc Gly	cac His 155	agt Ser	tta Leu	cgt Arg	gag Glu	aaa Lys 160	900
ctg Leu	gct Ala	gaa Glu	atg Met	gaa Glu 165	acc Thr	ttt Phe	aga Arg	gat Asp	ata Ile 170	ctg Leu	tgt Cys	aga Arg	caa Gln	gtt Val 175	gat Asp	948
acc	cta	cag	aag	ttc	ttt	gat	gcc	tgt	gct	gat	gct	gtc	tcc	aag	gat	996

Thr	Leu	Gln	Lys 180	Phe	Phe	Asp	Ala	Cys 185	Ala	Asp	Ala	Val	Ser 190	Lys	Asp	
gaa Glu	ttt Phe	caa Gln 195	agg Arg	gat Asp	aaa Lys	gtg Val	gta Val 200	gaa Glu	gat Asp	gat Asp	gaa Glu	gat Asp 205	gac Asp	ttt Phe	Pro	1044
acg Thr	aca Thr 210	cgt Arg	tct Ser	gat Asp	gga Gly	gac Asp 215	ttc Phe	ttg Leu	cat His	aat Asn	acc Thr 220	aat Asn	ggc Gly	aat Asn	aag Lys	1092
gaa Glu 225	aag Lys	gta Val	ttt Phe	cca Pro	cat His 230	gta Val	aca Thr	cca Pro	aaa Lys	gga G1y 235	att Ile	aat Asn	ggt Gly	ata Ile	gac Asp 240	1140
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gct Ala	aca Thr	ctt Leu	tct Ser 260	cat His	tgt Cys	att Ile	gag Glu	ctg Leu 265	atg Met	gta Val	aaa Lys	cgt Arg	gag Glu 270	gac Asp	agc Ser	1236
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gga Gly 305	gga Gly	cca Pro	gat Asp	tat Tyr	gag Glu 310	gaa Glu	ggc Gly	cca Pro	aac Asn	agt Ser 315	ttg Leu	att Ile	aat Asn	gaa Glu	gag Glu 320	1380
gag Glu	ttc Phe	ttt Phe	gat Asp	gct Ala 325	gtt Val	gaa Glu	gct Ala	gct Ala	ctt Leu 330	gac Asp	aga Arg	caa Gln	gat Asp	aaa Lys 335	ata Ile	1428
gaa Glu	gaa Glu	cag Gln	tcg Ser 340	cag Gln	agt Ser	gaa Glu	aag Lys	gtc Val 345	agg Arg	tta Leu	cat His	tgg Trp	tct Ser 350	act Thr	tca Ser	1476
atg Met	cca Pro	tct Ser 355	gga Gly	gat Asp	gcc Ala	ttt Phe	tct Ser 360	tct Ser	gtg Val	ggg Gly	act Thr	cat His 365	aga Arg	ttt Phe	gtc Val	1524
caa Gln	aag Lys 370	gtt Val	gaa Glu	gag Glu	atg Met	gtg Val 375	cag Gln	aac Asn	cac His	atg Met	acc Thr 380	tat Tyr	tca Ser	ttg Leu	cag Gln	1572
		ggt Gly														1620
		gta Val														1668

,5

				405					410					415		
											aca Thr					1716
											gat Asp					1764
ata Ile	gaa Glu 450	aac Asn	ttt Phe	cat His	gtg Val	gtg Val 455	gaa Glu	aca Thr	tta Leu	gct Ala	gat Asp 460	aat Asn	gca Ala	atc Ile	atc Ile	1812
											tct Ser					1860
tta Leu	tat Tyr	ctg Leu	tct Ser	gcc Ala 485	att Ile	cga Arg	aag Lys	ata Ile	cca Pro 490	gct Ala	ttg Leu	aat Asn	gaa Glu	aat Asn 495	gac Asp	1908
ccg Pro	gag Glu	act Thr	tgg Trp 500	ata Ile	gtt Val	tgt Cys	aat Asn	ttt Phe 505	tct Ser	gta Val	gat Asp	cac His	agc Ser 510	agt Ser	gct Ala	1956
cct Pro	cta Leu	aac Asn 515	aat Asn	cga Arg	tgt Cys	gtc Val	cgt Arg 520	gcc Ala	aaa Lys	ata Ile	aac Asn	gtt Val 525	gct Ala	atg Met	att Ile	2004
tgt Cys	cag Gln 530	acc Thr	ttg Leu	gtg Val	agc Ser	ccc Pro 535	cca Pro	gag Glu	gga Gly	aac Asn	cag Gln 540	gag Glu	att Ile	agc Ser	agg Arg	2052
gac Asp 545	aac Asn	att Ile	cta Leu	tgc Cys	aag Lys 550	att Ile	aca Thr	tac Tyr	gtg Val	gcc Ala 555	aat Asn	gta Val	aac Asn	cct Pro	gga Gly 560	2100
gga Gly	tgg Trp	gcc Ala	cca Pro	gcc Ala 565	tca Ser	gtg Val	tta Leu	cgg Arg	gca Ala 570	gtg Val	gca Ala	aag Lys	cga Arg	gaa Glu 575	tat Tyr	2148
cca Pro	aag Lys	ttt Phe	.cta Leu 580	aag Lys	cgt Arg	ttt Phe	act Thr	tct Ser 585	tac Tyr	gta Val	caa Gln	gaa Glu	aaa Lys 590	act Thr	gca Ala	2196
		cct Pro 595	Ile			tag	tatta	aac a	agtga	actg	aa go	caag	gctg	t		2244
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<213> Artificial Sequence

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Bovine GPBP26 Met Ser Asp Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro Glu Thr Glu Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Asn Lys Trp Thr Asn Tyr Ile His Gly Trp Gln Asp Arg Trp Val Val Leu Lys Asn Asn Thr Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly Cys Arg Gly Ser Ile Cys Leu Ser Lys Ala Val Ile Thr Pro His Asp Phe Asp Glu Cys Arg Phe Asp Ile Ser Val Asn Asp Ser Val Trp Tyr Leu Arg Ala Gln Asp Pro Asp His Arg Gln Gln Trp Ile Asp Ala Ile Glu Gln His Lys Thr Glu Ser Gly Tyr Gly Ser Glu Ser Ser Leu Arg 120 Arg His Gly Ser Met Val Ser Leu Val Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Tyr Ser 135 Ala Thr Ser Thr Ser Ser Phe Lys Lys Gly His Ser Leu Arg Glu Lys 150 155 Leu Ala Glu Met Glu Thr Phe Arg Asp Ile Leu Cys Arg Gln Val Asp Thr Leu Gln Lys Phe Phe Asp Ala Cys Ala Asp Ala Val Ser Lys Asp Glu Phe Gln Arg Asp Lys Val Val Glu Asp Asp Glu Asp Asp Phe Pro Thr Thr Arg Ser Asp Gly Asp Phe Leu His Asn Thr Asn Gly Asn Lys Glu Lys Val Phe Pro His Val Thr Pro Lys Gly Ile Asn Gly Ile Asp 230 Phe Lys Gly Glu Ala Ile Thr Phe Lys Ala Thr Thr Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Thr Leu Ser His Cys Ile Glu Leu Met Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ser 270 Trp Gln Lys Arg Met Asp Lys Glu Thr Glu Lys Arg Arg Arg Val Glu

		275					280					285			
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Gly 305	Gly	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Glu 310	Glu	Gly	Pro	Asn	Ser 315	Leu	Ile	Asn	Glu	Glu 320
Glu	Phe	Phe	Asp	Ala 325	Val	Glu	Ala	Ala	Leu, 330	Asp	Arg	Gln	Asp	Lys 335	Ile
Glu	Glu	Gln	Ser 340	Gln	Ser	Glu	Lys	Val 345	Arg	Leu	His	Trp	Ser 350	Thr	Ser
Met	Pro	Ser 355	Gly	Asp	Ala	Phe	Ser 360	Ser	Val	Gly	Thr	His 365	Arg	Phe	Val
Gln	Lys 370	Val	Glu	Glu	Met	Val 375	Gln	Asn	His	Met	Thr 380	Tyr	Ser	Leu	Gln
Asp 385		Gly	Gly	Asp	Ala 390	Asn	Trp	Gln	Leu	Val 395	Val	Glu	Glu	Gly	Glu 400
Met	Lys	Val	Tyr	Arg 405	Arg	Glu	Val	Glu	Glu 410	Asn	Gly	Ile	Val	Leu 415	Asp
Pro	Leu	Lys	Ala 420	Thr	His	Ala	Val	Lys 425	Gly	Val	Thr	Gly	His 430	Glu	Val
Cys	Asn	Tyr 435	Phe	Trp	Asn	Val	Asp 440	Val	Arg	Asn	Asp	Trp 445	Glu	Thr	Thr
Ile	Glu 450	Asn	Phe	His	Val	Val 455	Glu	Thr	Leu	Ala	Asp 460	Asņ	Ala	Ile	Ile
Ile 465	Tyr	Gln	Thr	His	Lys 470	Arg	Val	Trp	Pro	Ala 475	Ser	Gln	Arg	Asp	Val 480
Leu	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Ala 485	Ile	Arg	Lys	Ile	Pro 490	Ala	Leu	Asn	Glu	Asn 495	Asp
Pro	Glu	Thr	Trp 500	Ile	Val	Cys	Àsn	Phe 505	Ser	Val	Asp	His	Ser 510	Ser	Ala
Pro	Leu	Asn 515		Arg	Cys	Val	Arg 520	Ala	Lys	Ile	Asn	Val 525	Ala	Met	Ile
Cys	Gln 530		Leu	Val	Ser	Pro 535		Glu	Gly	Asn	Gln 540	Glu	Ile	Ser	Arg
Asp 545		Ile	Leu	Cys	Lys 550		Thr	Tyr	Val	Ala 555		Val	Asn	Pro	Gly 560
Gly	Trp	Ala	Pro	Ala 565	Ser	Val	Leu	Arg	Ala 570		Ala	Lys	Arg	Glu 575	Tyr
Pro	Lys	Phe	Leu	Lys	Arg	Phe	Thr	Ser	Tyr	Val	Gln	Glu	Lys	Thr	Ala

580 585 590 Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe 595 <210> 13 <211> 78 <212> DNA <213> Homo sapiens <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(78) <400> 13 ccc tat agt cgc tct tcc tcc atg tct tcc att gat cta gtc agt gcc 48 Pro Tyr Ser Arg Ser Ser Ser Met Ser Ser Ile Asp Leu Val Ser Ala 78 tct gat gat gtt cac aga ttc agc tcc cag Ser Asp Asp Val His Arg Phe Ser Ser Gln 20 <210> 14 <211> 26 <212> PRT <213> Homo sapiens <400> 14 Pro Tyr Ser Arg Ser Ser Ser Met Ser Ser Ile Asp Leu Val Ser Ala 1 5 Ser Asp Asp Val His Arg Phe Ser Ser Gln 20 <210> 15 <211> 2034 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: GPBPR3 <220> <221> CDS <222> (10)..(990) <400> 15 gaattcacc atg gcc cca cta gcc gac tac aag gac gac gat gac aag atg 51 Met Ala Pro Leu Ala Asp Tyr Lys Asp Asp Asp Lys Met 1 99 tcg gat aat cag agc tgg aac tcg tcg ggc tcg gag gag gat cca gag Ser Asp Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro Glu

15					20					25					30	
acg Thr	gag Glu	tct Ser	ggg	ccg Pro 35	cct Pro	gtg Val	gag Glu	cgc Arg	tgc Cys 40	ggg Gly	gtc Val	ctc Leu	agt Ser	aag Lys 45	tgg Trp	147
aca Thr	aac Asn	tac Tyr	att Ile 50	cat His	ggg Gly	tgg Trp	cag Gln	gat Asp 55	cgt Arg	tgg Trp	gta Val	gtt Val	ttg Leu 60	aaa Lys	aat Asn	195
aat Asn	gct Ala	ctg Leu 65	agt Ser	tac Tyr	tac Tyr	aaa Lys	tct Ser 70	gaa Glu	gat Asp	gaa Glu	aca Thr	gag Glu 75	tat Tyr	ggc Gly	tgc Cys	243
aga Arg	gga Gly 80	tcc Ser	atc Ile	tgt Cys	ctt Leu	agc Ser 85	aag Lys	gct Ala	gtc Val	atc Ile	aca Thr 90	cct Pro	cac His	gat Asp	ttt Phe	291
gat Asp 95	gaa Glu	tgt Cys	cga Arg	ttt Phe	gat Asp 100	att Ile	agt Ser	gta Val	aat Asn	gat Asp 105	agt Ser	gtt Val	tgg Trp	tat Tyr	ctt Leu 110	339
cgt Arg	gct Ala	cag Gln	gat Asp	cca Pro 115	gat Asp	cat His	aga Arg	cag Gln	caa Gln 120	tgg Trp	ata Ile	gat Asp	gcc Ala	att Ile 125	gaa Glu	387
cag Gln	cac His	aag Lys	act Thr 130	gaa Glu	tct Ser	gga Gly	tat Tyr	gga Gly 135	tct Ser	gaa Glu	tcc Ser	agc Ser	ttg Leu 140	cgt Arg	cga Arg	435
cat His	ggc Gly	tca Ser 145	atg Met	gtg Val	tcc Ser	ctg Leu	gtg Val 150	tct Ser	gga Gly	gca Ala	agt Ser	ggc Gly 155	tac Tyr	tct Ser	gca Ala	483
aca Thr	tcc Ser 160	acc Thr	tct Ser	tca Ser	ttc Phe	aag Lys 165	aaa Lys	ggc Gly	cac His	agt Ser	tta Leu 170	cgt Arg	gag Glu	aag Lys	ttg Leu	531
gct Ala 175	Glu	Met	Glu	Thr	ttt Phe 180	Arg	Asp	Ile	Leu	Cys	Arg	Gln	Val	Asp	acg Thr 190	579
cta Leu	cag Gln	aag Lys	tac Tyr	ttt Phe 195	gat Asp	gcc Ala	tgt Cys	gct Ala	gat Asp 200	gct Ala	gtc Val	tct Ser	aag Lys	gat Asp 205	gaa Glu	627
ctt Leu	caa Gln	agg Arg	gat Asp 210	aaa Lys	gtg Val	gta Val	gaa Glu	gat Asp 215	gat Asp	gaa Glu	gat Asp	gac Asp	ttt Phe 220	cct Pro	aca Thr	675
acg Thr	cgt Arg	tct Ser 225	gat Asp	ggt Gly	gac Asp	ttc Phe	ttg Leu 230	cat His	agt Ser	acc Thr	aac Asn	ggc Gly 235	aat Asn	aaa Lys	gaa Glu	723
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aaa Lys 255	G] y ggg	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	ata Ile	act Thr 260	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	gca Ala	act Thr	act Thr 265	gct Ala	gga Gly	atc Ile	ctt Leu	gca Ala 270	819
aca Thr	ctt Leu	tct Ser	cat His	tgt Cys 275	att Ile	gaa Glu	cta Leu	atg Met	gtt Val 280	aaa Lys	cgt Arg	gag Glu	gac Asp	agc Ser 285	tgg Trp	867
cag Gln	aag Lys	aga Arg	ctg Leu 290	gat Asp	aag Lys	gaa Glu	act Thr	gag Glu 295	aag Lys	aaa Lys	aga Arg	aga Arg	aca Thr 300	gag Glu	gaa Glu	915
gca Ala	tat Tyr	aaa Lys 305	aat Asn	gca Ala	atg Met	aca Thr	gaa Glu 310	cga Arg	aaa Lys	aat Asn	ccc Pro	act Thr 315	ttg Leu	gag Glu	gac Asp	963
cag Gln	att Ile 320	atg Met	aag Lys	aag Lys	gcc Ala	cta Leu 325	aca Thr	gtc Val	tgai	ttaai	tga i	agaaq	gagt	tc		1010
ttt	gatgo	ctg	ttga	agct	gc to	cttga	acaga	a ca	agata	aaaa	tag	aagaa	aca ·	gtca	cagagt	1070
gaaa	aaggi	tga (	gatt	acat	tg g	ccta	catc	c tt	gccc.	tctg	gag	atgc	ctt	ttct	tctgtg	1130
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cct	ttaa	aag	ctac	ccat	gc a	gtta	aagg	c gt	caca	ggac	atg	aagt	ctg	caat	tatttc	1430
tgg.	aatg	ttg	acgt	tcgc	aa t	gact	ggga	a ac	aact	atag	aaa	actt	tca	tgtg	gtggaa	1490
aca	ttag	ctg	ataa	tgca	at c	atca	ttta	t ca	aaca	caca	aga	gggt	gtg	gcct	gcttct	1550
cag	cgag	acg	tatt	atat	ct t	tctg	tcat	t cg	aaag	atac	cag	cctt	gac	tgaa	aatgac	1610
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															ccacca	
					•										gctaat	
			•												gagtat	
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att			,				_	•	J	J						2034
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Glu Ala Ile Thr Phe Lys Ala Thr Thr Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Thr Leu 260 Ser His Cys Ile Glu Leu Met Val Lys Arg Glu Asp Ser Trp Gln Lys 280 275 Arg Leu Asp Lys Glu Thr Glu Lys Lys Arg Arg Thr Glu Glu Ala Tyr Lys Asn Ala Met Thr Glu Arg Lys Asn Pro Thr Leu Glu Asp Gln Ile 310 315 305 Met Lys Lys Ala Leu Thr Val 325 <210> 17 <211> 1978 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: FLAG-GPBPDNLS <220> <221> CDS <222> (10)..(1860) <400> 17 gaattcace atg gcc cca cta gcc gac tac aag gac gac gat gac aag atg 51 Met Ala Pro Leu Ala Asp Tyr Lys Asp Asp Asp Lys Met tcg gat aat cag agc tgg aac tcg tcg ggc tcg gag gag gat cca gag Ser Asp Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro Glu 15 acg gag tot ggg ccg cot gtg gag cgc tgc ggg gtc ctc agt aag tgg 147 Thr Glu Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Lys Trp 45 35 aca aac tac att cat ggg tgg cag gat cgt tgg gta gtt ttg aaa aat 195 Thr Asn Tyr Ile His Gly Trp Gln Asp Arg Trp Val Val Leu Lys Asn 50 aat gct ctg agt tac tac aaa tct gaa gat gaa aca gag tat ggc tgc 243 Asn Ala Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly Cys 65 291 aga gga tcc atc tgt ctt agc aag gct gtc atc aca cct cac gat ttt Arg Gly Ser Ile Cys Leu Ser Lys Ala Val Ile Thr Pro His Asp Phe 85 80 gat gaa tgt cga ttt gat att agt gta aat gat agt gtt tgg tat ctt 339 Asp Glu Cys Arg Phe Asp Ile Ser Val Asn Asp Ser Val Trp Tyr Leu 100 105

P	gt	gct Ala	cag Gln	gat Asp	cca Pro 115	gat Asp	cat His	aga Arg	cag Gln	caa Gln 120	tgg Trp	ata Ile	gat Asp	gcc Ala	att Ile 125	gaa Glu	387
(	ag Gln	cac His	aag Lys	act Thr 130	gaa Glu	tct Ser	gga Gly	tat Tyr	gga Gly 135	tct Ser	gaa Glu	tcc Ser	agc Ser	ttg Leu 140	cgt Arg	cga Arg	435
i	at dis	ggc Gly	tca Ser 145	atg Met	gtg Val	tcc Ser	ctg Leu	gtg Val 150	tct Ser	gga Gly	gca Ala	agt Ser	ggc Gly 155	tac Tyr	tct Ser	gca Ala	483
7	aca Thr	tcc Ser 160	acc Thr	tct Ser	tca Ser	ttc Phe	aag Lys 165	aaa Lys	ggc Gly	cac His	agt Ser	tta Leu 170	cgt Arg	gag Glu	aag Lys	ttg Leu	531
1	gct Ala 175	gaa Glu	atg Met	gaa Glu	aca Thr	ttt Phe 180	aga Arg	gac Asp	atc Ile	tta Leu	tgt Cys 185	aga Arg	caa Gln	gtt Val	gac Asp	acg Thr 190	579
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agt Ser 335	gaa Glu	aag Lys	gtg Val	aga Arg	tta Leu 340	cat His	tgg Trp	cct Pro	aca Thr	tcc Ser 345	ttg Leu	ccc Pro	tct Ser	gga Gly	gat Asp 350	1059
gcc Ala	ttt Phe	tct Ser	tct Ser	gtg Val 355	ggg Gly	aca Thr	cat His	aga Arg	ttt Phe 360	gtc Val	caa Gln	aag Lys	ccc Pro	tat Tyr 365	agt Ser	1107
cgc Arg	tct Ser	tcc Ser	tcc Ser 370	atg Met	tct Ser	tcc Ser	att Ile	gat Asp 375	cta Leu	gtc Val	agt Ser	gcc Ala	tct Ser 380	gat Asp	gat Asp	1155
gtt Val	cac His	aga Arg 385	ttc Phe	agc Ser	tcc Ser	cag Gln	gtt Val 390	gaa Glu	gag Glu	atg Met	gtg Val	cag Gln 395	aac Asn	cac His	atg Met	1203
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gta Val 415	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gga Gly	gaa Glu	atg Met 420	aag Lys	gta Val	tac Tyr	aga Arg	aga Arg 425	gaa Glu	gta Val	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	aat Asn 430	1299
ggg Gly	att Ile	gtt Val	ctg Leu	gat Asp 435	cct Pro	tta Leu	aaa Lys	gct Ala	acc Thr 440	cat His	gca Ala	gtt Val	aaa Lys	ggc Gly 445	gtc Val	1347
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gat Asp	aat Asn 480	gca Ala	atc Ile	atc Ile	att Ile	tat Tyr 485	caa Gln	aca Thr	cac His	aag Lys	agg Arg 490	gtg Val	tgg Trp	cct Pro	gct Ala	1491
tct Ser 495	cag Gln	cga Arg	gac Asp	gta Val	tta Leu 500	tat Tyr	ctt Leu	tct Ser	gtc Val	att Ile 505	cga Arg	aag Lys	ata Ile	cca Pro	gcc Ala 510	1539
ttg Leu	act Thr	gaa Glu	aat Asn	gac Asp 515	cct Pro	gaa Glu	act Thr	tgg Trp	ata Ile 520	gtt Val	tgt Cys	aat Asn	ttt Phe	tct Ser 525	gtg Val	1587
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												cca Pro 555				1683
cag	gaa	att	agc	agg	gac	aac	att	cta	tgc	aag	att	aca	tat	gta	gct	1731

Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala 565 570 aat gtg aac cot gga gga tgg gca cca gcc tca gtg tta agg gca gtg 1779 Asn Val Asn Pro Gly Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala Val 580 585 575 gca aag cga gag tat cct aaa ttt cta aaa cgt ttt act tct tac gtc 1827 Ala Lys Arg Glu Tyr Pro Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg Phe Thr Ser Tyr Val 595 600 caa gaa aaa act gca gga aag cct att ttg ttc tagtattaac aggtactaga 1880 Gln Glu Lys Thr Ala Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe 610 agatatgttt tatctttttt taactttatt tgactaatat gactgtcaat actaaaattt 1940 1978 agttgttgaa agtatttact atgtttttc cggaattc <210> 18 <211> 617 <212> PRT <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: FLAG-GPBPDNLS Met Ala Pro Leu Ala Asp Tyr Lys Asp Asp Asp Lys Met Ser Asp Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro Glu Thr Glu Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Lys Trp Thr Asn 40 Tyr Ile His Gly Trp Gln Asp Arg Trp Val Val Leu Lys Asn Asn Ala Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly Cys Arg Gly 70 Ser Ile Cys Leu Ser Lys Ala Val Ile Thr Pro His Asp Phe Asp Glu 90 Cys Arg Phe Asp Ile Ser Val Asn Asp Ser Val Trp Tyr Leu Arg Ala 100 Gln Asp Pro Asp His Arg Gln Gln Trp Ile Asp Ala Ile Glu Gln His 120 Lys Thr Glu Ser Gly Tyr Gly Ser Glu Ser Ser Leu Arg Arg His Gly 135 Ser Met Val Ser Leu Val Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Tyr Ser Ala Thr Ser

145					150					155					160
	Ser	Ser	Phe	Lys 165	Lys	Gly	His	Ser	Leu 170	Arg	Glu	Lys	Leu	Ala 175	Glu
Met	Glu	Thr	Phe 180	Arg	Asp	Ile	Leu	Cys 185	Arg	Gln	Val	Asp	Thr 190	Leu	Gln
Lys	Tyr	Phe 195	Asp	Ala	Cys	Ala	Asp 200	Ala	Val	Ser	Lys	Asp 205	Glu	Leu	Gln
Arg	Asp 210	Lys	Val	Val	Glu	Asp 215	Asp	Glu	Asp	Asp	Phe 220	Pro	Thr	Thr	Arg
Ser 225	Asp	Gly	Asp	Phe	Leu 230	His	Ser	Thr	Asn	Gly 235	Asn	Lys	Glu	Lys	Leu 240
Phe	Pro	His	Val	Thr 245	Pro	Lys	Gly	Ile	Asn 250	Gly	Ile	Asp	Phe	Lys 255	Gly
Glu	Ala	Ile	Thr 260	Phe	Lys	Ala	Thr	Thr 265	Ala	Gly	Ile	Leu	Ala 270	Thr	Leu
Ser	His	Cys 275	Ile	Glu	Leu	Met	Val 280	Lys	Arg	Glu	Asp	Ser 285	Trp	Gln	Lys
Arg	Leu 290	Asp	Lys	Glu	Thr	Glu 295	His	Phe	Gly	Gly	Pro 300	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Glu
Gly 305	Pro	Asn	Ser	Leu	Ile 310	Asn	Glu	Glu	Glu	Phe 315	Phe	Asp	Ala	Val	Glu 320
Ala	Ala	Leu	Asp	Arg 325	Gln	Asp	Lys	Ile	Glu 330	Glu	Gln	Ser	Gln	Ser 335	Glu
_			340					345					350	Ala	
		355					360					365			Ser
	370					375					380				His
385					390					395					Tyr 400
				405					410					415	
			420					425	ı				430		Ile
		435					440					445			Gly
His	Glu	Val	Cys	Asn	Tyr	Phe	Trp	Asn	Val	. Asp	Val	Arg	Asn	Asp	Trp

460 455 450 Glu Thr Thr Ile Glu Asn Phe His Val Val Glu Thr Leu Ala Asp Asn 470 Ala Ile Ile Ile Tyr Gln Thr His Lys Arg Val Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln 490 Arg Asp Val Leu Tyr Leu Ser Val Ile Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Thr 505 Glu Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp Ser Ala Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Val 535 Ala Met Ile Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser Pro Pro Glu Gly Asn Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Lys 585 580 Arg Glu Tyr Pro Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg Phe Thr Ser Tyr Val Gln Glu 600 Lys Thr Ala Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe 610 <210> 19 <211> 1975 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: FLAG-GPBPDSXY <220> <221> CDS <222> (10)..(1857) gaattcacc atg gec cca cta gec gac tac aag gac gac gat gac aag atg 51 Met Ala Pro Leu Ala Asp Tyr Lys Asp Asp Asp Lys Met 1 teg gat aat cag age tgg aac teg teg ggc teg gag gat eca gag Ser Asp Asn Gln Ser Trp Asn Ser Ser Gly Ser Glu Glu Asp Pro Glu 20 acg gag tot ggg cog cot gtg gag cgc tgc ggg gtc ctc agt aag tgg Thr Glu Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Lys Trp 45 35 40

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aat Asn	gct Ala	ctg Leu 65	agt Ser	tac Tyr	tac Tyr	aaa Lys	tct Ser 70	gaa Glu	gat Asp	gaa Glu	aca Thr	gag Glu 75	tat Tyr	ggc	tgc Cys	243
aga Arg	gga Gly 80	tcc Ser	atc Ile	tgt Cys	ctt Leu	agc Ser 85	aag Lys	gct Ala	gtc Val	atc Ile	aca Thr 90	cct Pro	cac His	gat Asp	ttt Phe	291
gat Asp 95	gaa Glu	tgt Cys	cga Arg	ttt Phe	gat Asp 100	att Ile	agt Ser	gta Val	aat Asn	gat Asp 105	agt Ser	gtt Val	tgg Trp	tat Tyr	ctt Leu 110	339
cgt Arg	gct Ala	cag Gln	gat Asp	cca Pro 115	gat Asp	cat His	aga Arg	cag Gln	caa Gln 120	tgg Trp	ata Ile	gat Asp	gcc Ala	att Ile 125	gaa Glu	387
cag Gln	cac His	aag Lys	act Thr 130	gaa Glu	tct Ser	gga Gly	tat Tyr	gga Gly 135	tct Ser	gaa Glu	tcc Ser	agc Ser	ttg Leu 140	cgt Arg	cga Arg	435
cat His	ggc Gly	aaa Lys 145	ggc Gly	cac His	agt Ser	tta Leu	cgt Arg 150	gag Glu	aag Lys	ttg Leu	gct Ala	gaa Glu 155	atg Met	gaa Glu	aca Thr	483
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att Ile 255	Glu	cta Leu	atg Met	gtt Val	aaa Lys 260	cgt Arg	gag Glu	gac Asp	agc Ser	tgg Trp 265	Gln	aag Lys	aga Arg	ctg Leu	gat Asp 270	819

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					aaa Lys											915
gaa Glu	ggc Gly	cct Pro 305	aac Asn	agt Ser	ctg Leu	att Ile	aat Asn 310	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gag Glu	ttc Phe	ttt Phe 315	gat Asp	gct Ala	gtt Val	963
gaa Glu	gct Ala 320	gct Ala	ctt Leu	gac Asp	aga Arg	caa Gln 325	gat Asp	aaa Lys	ata Ile	gaa Glu	gaa Glu 330	cag Gln	tca Ser	cag Gln	agt Ser	1011
gaa Glu 335	aag Lys	gtg Val	aga Arg	tta Leu	cat His 340	tgg Trp	cct Pro	aca Thr	tcc Ser	ttg Leu 345	ccc Pro	tct Ser	gga Gly	gat Asp	gcc Ala 350	1059
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aat Asn	gca Ala 480	atc Ile	atc Ile	att Ile	tat Tyr	caa Gln 485	aca Thr	cac His	aag Lys	agg Arg	gtg Val 490	tgg Trp	cct Pro	gct Ala	tct Ser	1491
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Gln 495	Arg	Asp	Val	Leu	Tyr 500	Leu	Ser	Val	Ile	Arg 505	Lys	Ile	Pro	Ala	Leu 510	
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					cta Leu											1635
					caa Gln											1683
					aac Asn											1731
					tgg Trp 580											1779
_	-				aaa Lys				-					-		1827
					aag Lys					tagt	atta	ac a	iggta	actaç	ja	1877
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			pere	on Or	. ALC	.1110	ilal	sequ	ience	;. F1	MG-0	ifbfl	JOAI			
	)> 2( Ala		Leu	Ala 5	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Asp	Asp 10	Asp	Asp	Lys	Met	Ser 15	Asp	
Asn	Gln	Ser	Trp 20	Asn	Ser	Ser	Gly	Ser 25	Glu	Glu	Asp	Pro	Glu 30	Thr	Glu	
Ser	Gly	Pro 35	Pro	Val	Glu	Arg	Cys 40	Gly	Val	Leu	Ser	Lys 45	Trp	Thr	Asn	
Tyr	Ile 50	His	Gly	Trp	Gln	Asp 55	Arg	Trp	Val	Val	Leu 60	Lys	Asn	Asn	Ala	

Leu 65	Ser	Tyr	Tyr	Lys	Ser 70	Glu	Asp	Glu	Thr	75	Tyr	Gly	Cys	Arg	80 GIA
Ser	Ile	Cys	Leu	Ser 85	Lys	Ala	Val	Ile	Thr 90	Pro	His	Asp	Phe	Asp 95	Glu
Cys	Arg	Phe	Asp 100	Ile	Ser	Val	Asn	Asp 105	Ser	Val	Trp	Tyr	Leu 110	Arg	Ala
Gln	Asp	Pro 115	Asp	His	Arg	Gln	Gln 120	Trp	Ile	Asp	Ala	Ile 125	Glu	Gln	His
Lys	Thr 130	Glu	Ser	Gly	Tyr	Gly 135	Ser	Glu	Ser	Ser	Leu 140	Arg	Arg	His	Gly
Lys 145	Gly	His	Ser	Leu	Arg 150	Glu	Lys	Leu	Ala	Glu 155	Met	Glu	Thr	Phe	Arg 160
Asp	Ile	Leu	Cys	Arg 165	Gln	Val	Asp	Thr	Leu 170	Gln	Lys	Tyr	Phe	Asp 175	Ala
Cys	Ala	Asp	Ala 180	Val	Ser	Lys	Asp	Glu 185	Leu	Gln	Arg	Asp	Lys 190	Val	Val
Glu	Asp	Asp 195	Glu	Asp	Asp	Phe	Pro 200	Thr	Thr	Arg	Ser	Asp 205	Gly	Asp	Phe
Leu	His 210	Ser	Thr	Asn	Gly	Asn 215	Lys	Glu	Lys	Leu	Phe 220	Pro	His	Val	Thr
Pro 225	Lys	Gly	Ile	Asn	Gly 230	Ile	Asp	Phe	Lys	Gly 235	Glu	Ala	Ile	Thr	Phe 240
Lys	Alá	Thr	Thr	Ala 245	Gly	Ile	Leu	Ala	Thr 250	Leu	Ser	His	Cys	Ile 255	Glu
Leu	Met	Val	Lys 260	Arg	Glu	Asp	Ser	Trp 265	Gln	Lys	Arg	Leu	Asp 270	Lys	Glu
Thr	Glu	Lys 275		Arg	Arg	Thr	Glu 280	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Asn 285	Ala	Met	Thr
Glu	Leu 290	Lys	Lys	Lys	Ser	His 295	Phe	Gly	Gly	Pro	Asp 300	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Gly
Pro 305		Ser	Leu	Ile	Asn 310		Glu	Glu	Phe	Phe 315		Ala	Val	Glu	Ala 320
Ala	Leu	Asp	Arg	Gln 325		Lys	Ile	Glu	Glu 330		Ser	Gln	Ser	Glu 335	Lys
Val	Arg	Leu	His 340		Pro	Thr	Ser	Leu 345		Ser	Gly	Asp	Ala 350	Phe	Ser
Ser	Val	Gly 355		His	Arg	Phe	Val 360	Gln	Lys	Pro	Tyr	Ser 365	Arg	Ser	Ser

Ser Met Ser Ser Ile Asp Leu Val Ser Ala Ser Asp Asp Val His Arg 370 375 380

Phe Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Glu Met Val Gln Asn His Met Thr Tyr Ser 385 390 395 400

Leu Gln Asp Val Gly Gly Asp Ala Asn Trp Gln Leu Val Val Glu Glu
405 410 415

Gly Glu Met Lys Val Tyr Arg Arg Glu Val Glu Glu Asn Gly Ile Val 420 425 430

Leu Asp Pro Leu Lys Ala Thr His Ala Val Lys Gly Val Thr Gly His 435 440 445

Glu Val Cys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Asn Val Asp Val Arg Asn Asp Trp Glu
450 455 460

Thr Thr Ile Glu Asn Phe His Val Val Glu Thr Leu Ala Asp Asn Ala 465 470 475 480

Ile Ile Ile Tyr Gln Thr His Lys Arg Val Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg 485 490 495

Asp Val Leu Tyr Leu Ser Val Ile Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Thr Glu
500 505 510

Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp 515 520 525

Ser Ala Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Val Ala 530 535 540

Met Ile Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser Pro Pro Glu Gly Asn Gln Glu Ile 545 550 555 560

Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn 565 570 575

Pro Gly Gly Trp Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Lys Arg 580 585 590

Glu Tyr Pro Lys Phe Leu Lys Arg Phe Thr Ser Tyr Val Gln Glu Lys 595 600 605

Thr Ala Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe 610 615

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<211> 1915

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:
 FLAG-GPBPDSXY/NLS

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gac Asp	ttc Phe	ttg Leu	cat His 210	agt Ser	acc Thr	aac Asn	ggc Gly	aat Asn 215	aaa Lys	gaa Glu	aag Lys	tta Leu	ttt Phe 220	cca Pro	cat His	675
gtg Val	aca Thr	cca Pro 225	aaa Lys	gga Gly	att Ile	aat Asn	ggt Gly 230	ata Ile	gac Asp	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	ggg Gly 235	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	ata Ile	723
act Thr	ttt Phe 240	aaa Lys	gca Ala	act Thr	act Thr	gct Ala 245	gga Gly	atc Ile	ctt Leu	gca Ala	aca Thr 250	ctt Leu	tct Ser	cat His	tgt Cys	771
att Ile 255	gaa Glu	cta Leu	atg Met	gtt Val	aaa Lys 260	cgt Arg	gag Glu	gac Asp	agc Ser	tgg Trp 265	cag Gln	aag Lys	aga Arg	ctg Leu	gat Asp 270	819
aag Lys	gaa Glu	act Thr	gag Glu	cac His 275	ttt Phe	gga Gly	gga Gly	cca Pro	gat Asp 280	tat Tyr	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	ggc Gly	cct Pro 285	aac Asn	867
agt Ser	ctg Leu	att Ile	aat Asn 290	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gag Glu	ttc Phe	ttt Phe 295	gat Asp	gct Ala	gtt Val	gaa Glu	gct Ala 300	gct Ala	ctt Leu	915
gac Asp	aga Arg	caa Gln 305	gat Asp	aaa Lys	ata Ile	gaa Glu	gaa Glu 310	cag Gln	tca Ser	cag Gln	agt Ser	gaa Glu 315	aag Lys	gtg Val	aga Arg	963
tta Leu	cat His 320	tgg Trp	cct Pro	aca Thr	tcc Ser	ttg Leu 325	ccc Pro	tct Ser	gga Gly	gat Asp	gcc Ala 330	ttt Phe	tct Ser	tct Ser	gtg Val	1011
ggg Gly 335	aca Thr	cat His	aga Arg	ttt Phe	gtc Val 340	caa Gln	aag Lys	ccc Pro	tat Tyr	agt Ser 345	cgc Arg	tct Ser	tcc Ser	tcc Ser	atg Met 350	1059
tct Ser	tcc Ser	att Ile	gat Asp	cta Leu 355	gtc Val	agt Ser	gcc Ala	tct Ser	gat Asp 360	gat Asp	gtt Val	cac His	aga Arg	ttc Phe 365	agc Ser	1107
tcc Ser	cag Gln	gtt Val	gaa Glu 370	gag Glu	atg Met	gtg Val	cag Gln	aac Asn 375	cac His	atg Met	act Thr	tac Tyr	tca Ser 380	tta Leu	cag Gln	1155
gat Asp	gta Val	ggc Gly 385	Gly	gat Asp	gcc Ala	aat Asn	tgg Trp 390	Gln	ttg Leu	gtt Val	gta Val	gaa Glu 395	Glu	gga Gly	gaa Glu	1203
atg Met	aag Lys 400	Val	tac Tyr	aga Arg	aga Arg	gaa Glu 405	gta Val	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	aat Asn	ggg Gly 410	Ile	gtt Val	ctg Leu	gat Asp	1251
cct Pro 415	Leu	aaa Lys	gct Ala	acc Thr	cat His 420	Ala	gtt Val	aaa Lys	ggc Gly	gtc Val 425	Thr	gga Gly	cat His	gaa Glu	gtc Val 430	1299

tgc Cys	aat Asn	tat Tyr	ttc Phe	tgg Trp 435	aat Asn	gtt Val	gac Asp	gtt Val	cgc Arg 440	aat Asn	gac Asp	tgg Trp	gaa Glu	aca Thr 445	act Thr	1347
ata Ile	gaa Glu	aac Asn	ttt Phe 450	cat His	gtg Val	gtg Val	gaa Glu	aca Thr 455	tta Leu	gct Ala	gat Asp	aat Asn	gca Ala 460	atc Ile	atc Ile	1395
att Ile	tat Tyr	caa Gln 465	aca Thr	cac His	aag Lys	agg Arg	gtg Val 470	tgg Trp	cct Pro	gct Ala	tct Ser	cag Gln 475	cga Arg	gac Asp	gta Val	1443
tta Leu	tat Tyr 480	ctt Leu	tct Ser	gtc Val	att Ile	cga Arg 485	aag Lys	ata Ile	cca Pro	gcc Ala	ttgʻ Leu 490	act Thr	gaa Glu	aat Asn	gac Asp	1491
cct Pro 495	gaa Glu	act Thr	tgg Trp	ata Ile	gtt Val 500	tgt Cys	aat Asn	ttt Phe	tct Ser	gtg Val 505	gat Asp	cat His	gac Asp	agt Ser	gct Ala 510	1539
cct Pro	cta Leu	aac Asn	aac Asn	cga Arg 515	tgt Cys	gtc Val	cgt Arg	gcc Ala	aaa Lys 520	ata Ile	aat Asn	gtt Val	gct Ala	atg Met 525	att Ile	1587
tgt Cys	caa Gln	acc Thr	ttg Leu 530	gta Val	agc Ser	cca Pro	cca Pro	gag Glu 535	gga Gly	aac Asn	cag Gln	gaa Glu	att Ile 540	agc Ser	agg Arg	1635
gac Asp	aac Asn	att Ile 545	cta Leu	tgc Cys	aag Lys	att Ile	aca Thr 550	tat Tyr	gta Val	gct Ala	aat Asn	gtg Val 555	aac Asn	cct Pro	gga Gly	1683
gga Gly	tgg Trp 560	gca Ala	cca Pro	gcc Ala	tca Ser	gtg Val 565	tta Leu	agg Arg	gca Ala	gtg Val	gca Ala 570	aag Lys	cga Arg	gag Glu	tat Tyr	1731
cct Pro 575	aaa Lys	ttt Phe	cta Leu	aaa Lys	cgt Arg 580	ttt Phe	act Thr	tct Ser	tac Tyr	gtc Val 585	caa Gln	gaa Glu	aaa Lys	act Thṛ	gca Ala 590	1779
	aag Lys				Phe	tag	tatt	aac a	aggt	acta	ga a	gata	tgtt	t		1827
tat	cttt	ttt	taac	ttta	tt to	gact	aata	t ga	ctgt	caat	act	aaaa	ttt	agtt	gttgaa	1887
agt	attt	act	atgt	tttt	tc c	ggaa	ttc									1915
<21 <21	0> 2 1> 5 2> P 3> A	96 RT	icia	l Se	quen	ce										

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: FLAG-GPBPDSXY/NLS

	)> 22														
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Asn	Gln	Ser	Trp 20	Asn	Ser	Ser	Gly	Ser 25	Glu	Glu	Asp	Pro	Glu 30	Thr	Glu
Ser	Gly	Pro 35	Pro	Val	Glu	Arg	Cys 40	Gly	Val	Leu	Ser	Lys 45	Trp	Thr	Asn
-	50					55					60°		Asn		
65					70					75			Cys		80
Ser	Ile	Cys	Leu	Ser 85	Lys	Ala	Val	Ile	Thr 90	Pro	His	Asp	Phe	Asp 95	Glu
_			100					105					Leu 110		
		115					120					125	Glu		
	130					135					140		Arg		
145					150					155			Thr		160
·				165		,			170				Phe	175	
			180					185					Lys 190		
		195					200					205	Gly		
	210					215					220		His		
Pro 225	Lys	Gly	Ile	Asn	Gly 230	Ile	Asp	Phe	Lys	Gly 235	Glu	Ala	Ile	Thr	Phe 240
Lys	Ala	Thr	Thr	Ala 245	Gly	Ile	Leu	Ala	Thr 250	Leu	Ser	His	Суз	11e 255	Glu
Leu	Met	Val	Lys 260	Arg	Glu	Asp	Ser	Trp 265	Gln	Lys	Arg	Leu	Asp 270	Lys	Glu
Thr	Glu	His 275	Phe	Gly	Gly	Pro	Asp 280	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Gly	Pro 285	Asn	Ser	Leu
Tla	Asn	Glu	Glu	Glu	Phe	Phe	Asp	Ala	Val	Glu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Asp	Ara

295 300 290 Gln Asp Lys Ile Glu Glu Gln Ser Gln Ser Glu Lys Val Arg Leu His 310 Trp Pro Thr Ser Leu Pro Ser Gly Asp Ala Phe Ser Ser Val Gly Thr 325 His Arg Phe Val Gln Lys Pro Tyr Ser Arg Ser Ser Ser Met Ser Ser 345 340 Ile Asp Leu Val Ser Ala Ser Asp Asp Val His Arg Phe Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Glu Met Val Gln Asn His Met Thr Tyr Ser Leu Gln Asp Val Gly Gly Asp Ala Asn Trp Gln Leu Val Val Glu Glu Gly Glu Met Lys Val Tyr Arg Arg Glu Val Glu Glu Asn Gly Ile Val Leu Asp Pro Leu Lys Ala Thr His Ala Val Lys Gly Val Thr Gly His Glu Val Cys Asn 420 425 Tyr Phe Trp Asn Val Asp Val Arg Asn Asp Trp Glu Thr Thr Ile Glu 440 Asn Phe His Val Val Glu Thr Leu Ala Asp Asn Ala Ile Ile Tyr 455 Gln Thr His Lys Arg Val Trp Pro Ala Ser Gln Arg Asp Val Leu Tyr 475 Leu Ser Val Ile Arg Lys Ile Pro Ala Leu Thr Glu Asn Asp Pro Glu Thr Trp Ile Val Cys Asn Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp Ser Ala Pro Leu 505 Asn Asn Arg Cys Val Arg Ala Lys Ile Asn Val Ala Met Ile Cys Gln Thr Leu Val Ser Pro Pro Glu Gly Asn Gln Glu Ile Ser Arg Asp Asn Ile Leu Cys Lys Ile Thr Tyr Val Ala Asn Val Asn Pro Gly Gly Trp 550 Ala Pro Ala Ser Val Leu Arg Ala Val Ala Lys Arg Glu Tyr Pro Lys 565 Phe Leu Lys Arg Phe Thr Ser Tyr Val Gln Glu Lys Thr Ala Gly Lys 585 Pro Ile Leu Phe

<211 <212	> 23 > 20 > DN > Ar	38 IA	.cial	. Sec	quenc	:e										
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	.> CD		(192	20)												
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tcg Ser 15	gat Asp	aat Asn	cag Gln	agc Ser	tgg Trp 20	aac Asn	tcg Ser	tcg Ser	ggc Gly	tcg Ser 25	gag Glu	gag Glu	gat Asp	cca Pro	gag Glu 30	99
acg Thr	gag Glu	tct Ser	ggg Gly	ccg Pro 35	cct Pro	gtg Val	gag Glu	cgc Arg	tgc Cys 40	ggg Gly	gtc Val	ctc Leu	agt Ser	aag Lys 45	tgg Trp	147
aca Thr	aac Asn	tac Tyr	att Ile 50	cat His	ggg Gly	tgg Trp	cag Gln	gat Asp 55	cgt Arg	tgg Trp	gta Val	gtt Val	ttg Leu 60	aaa Lys	aat Asn	195
aat Asn	gct Ala	ctg Leu 65	agt Ser	tac Tyr	tac Tyr	aaa Lys	tct Ser 70	gaa Glu	gat Asp	gaa Glu	aca Thr	gag Glu 75	tat Tyr	ggc Gly	tgc Cys	243
aga Arg	gga Gly 80	tcc Ser	atc Ile	tgt Cys	ctt Leu	agc Ser 85	aag Lys	gct Ala	gtc Val	atc Ile	aca Thr 90	cct Pro	cac His	gat Asp	ttt Phe	291
gat Asp 95	gaa Glu	tgt Cys	cga Arg	ttt Phe	gat Asp 100	att Ile	agt Ser	gta Val	aat Asn	gat Asp 105	agt Ser	gtt Val	tgg Trp	tat Tyr	ctt Leu 110	339
cgt Arg	gct Ala	cag Gln	gat Asp	cca Pro 115	gat Asp	cat His	aga Arg	cag Gln	caa Gln 120	tgg Trp	ata Ile	gat Asp	gcc Ala	att Ile 125	gaa Glu	387
cag Gln	cac His	aag Lys	act Thr 130	gaa Glu	tct Ser	gga Gly	tat Tyr	gga Gly 135	tct Ser	gaa Glu	tcc Ser	agc Ser	ttg Leu 140	cgt Arg	cga Arg	435
cat His	ggc Gly	tca Ser 145	atg Met	gtg Val	tcc Ser	ctg Leu	gtg Val 150	tct Ser	gga Gly	gca Ala	agt Ser	ggc Gly 155	tac Tyr	tct Ser	gca Ala	483
aca	tcc	acc	tct	tca	ttc	aao	aaa	aac	cac	agt	tta	cat	σασ	aag	ttg	531

Thr	Ser 160	Thr	Ser	Ser	Phe	Lys 165	Lys	Gly	His	Ser	Leu 170	Arg	Glu	Lys	Leu	,
gct Ala 175	gaa Glu	atg Met	gaa Glu	aca Thr	ttt Phe 180	aga Arg	gcc Ala	atc Ile	tta Leu	tgt Cys 185	aga Arg	caa Gln	gtt Val	gac Asp	acg Thr 190	579
cta Leu	cag Gln	aag Lys	tac Tyr	ttt Phe 195	gat Asp	gcc Ala	tgt Cys	gct Ala	gat Asp 200	gct Ala	gtc Val	tct Ser	aag Lys	gat Asp 205	gaa Glu	627
											gat Asp					675
acg Thr	cgt Arg	tct Ser 225	gat Asp	ggt Gly	gac Asp	ttc Phe	ttg Leu 230	cat His	agt Ser	acc Thr	aac Asn	ggc Gly 235	aat Asn	aaa Lys	gaa Glu	723
aag Lys	tta Leu 240	ttt Phe	cca Pro	cat His	gtg Val	aca Thr 245	cca Pro	aaa Lys	gga Gly	att Ile	aat Asn 250	ggt Gly	ata Ile	gac Asp	ttt Phe	771
aaa Lys 255	Gly ggg	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	ata Ile	act Thr 260	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	gca Ala	act Thr	act Thr 265	gct Ala	gga Gly	atc Ile	ctt Leu	gca Ala 270	819
aca Thr	ctt Leu	tct Ser	cat His	tgt Cys 275	att Ile	gaa Glu	cta Leu	atg Met	gtt Val 280	aaa Lys	cgt Arg	gag Glu	gac Asp	agc Ser 285	tgg Trp	867
											aga Arg					915
gca Ala	tat Tyr	aaa Lys 305	aat Asn	gca Ala	atg Met	aca Thr	gaa Glu 310	ctt Leu	aag Lys	aaa Lys	aaa Lys	tcc Ser 315	cac His	ttt Phe	gga Gly	963
gga Gly	cca Pro 320	gat Asp	tat Tyr	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gge Gly 325	cct Pro	aac Asn	agt Ser	ctg Leu	att Ile 330	aat Asn	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	gag Glu	1011
ttc Phe 335	ttt Phe	gat Asp	gct Ala	gtt Val	gaa Glu 340	gct Ala	gct Ala	ctt Leu	gac Asp	aga Arg 345	caa Gln	gat Asp	aaa Lys	ata Ile	gaa Glu 350	1059
											tgg Trp					1107
											cat His					1155
											att Ile					1203

	385					390					395				
gcc to Ala Se 40	-	_	-		_		_		_	-	_		_		1251
_	ac cac sn His	_					-		-		-	-	-		1299
	ag ttg In Leu	_	-	-	-		_	_	_	-		_	-	-	1347
gta ga Val Gl	aa gaa Lu Glu														1395
gtt aa Val Ly	aa ggc /s Gly 465														1443
gac gt Asp Va 48	-														1491
	ca tta nr Leu														1539
	gg cct p Pro														1587
	a cca Le Pro														1635
	t tct ne Ser 545	Val	Asp	His		Ser	Ala		Leu	Asn					1683
	cc aaa la Lys 50														1731
	ag gga lu Gly														1779
	at gta /r Val														1827
tta aç Leu Aı	gg gca gg Ala														1875

act tot tac gtc caa gaa aaa act gca gga aag cot att ttg ttc 1920
Thr Ser Tyr Val Gln Glu Lys Thr Ala Gly Lys Pro Ile Leu Phe
625 630 635

tagtattaac aggtactaga agatatgttt tatctttttt taactttatt tgactaatat 1980 gactgtcaat actaaaattt agttgttgaa agtatttact atgtttttc cggaattc 2038

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<211> 637

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: GPBP-D169A

<400> 24

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Ser Gly Pro Pro Val Glu Arg Cys Gly Val Leu Ser Lys Trp Thr Asn 35 40 45

Tyr Ile His Gly Trp Gln Asp Arg Trp Val Val Leu Lys Asn Asn Ala 50 55 60

Leu Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Glu Asp Glu Thr Glu Tyr Gly Cys Arg Gly 65 70 75 80

Ser Ile Cys Leu Ser Lys Ala Val Ile Thr Pro His Asp Phe Asp Glu 85 90 95

Cys Arg Phe Asp Ile Ser Val Asn Asp Ser Val Trp Tyr Leu Arg Ala 100 105 110

Gln Asp Pro Asp His Arg Gln Gln Trp Ile Asp Ala Ile Glu Gln His 115 120 125

Lys Thr Glu Ser Gly Tyr Gly Ser Glu Ser Ser Leu Arg Arg His Gly 130 135 140

Ser Met Val Ser Leu Val Ser Gly Ala Ser Gly Tyr Ser Ala Thr Ser 145 150 155 160

Thr Ser Ser Phe Lys Lys Gly His Ser Leu Arg Glu Lys Leu Ala Glu 165 170 175

Met Glu Thr Phe Arg Ala Ile Leu Cys Arg Gln Val Asp Thr Leu Gln 180 185 190

Lys Tyr Phe Asp Ala Cys Ala Asp Ala Val Ser Lys Asp Glu Leu Gln 195 200 205

Arg	Asp 210	Lys	Val	Val	Glu	Asp 215	Asp	Glu	Asp	Asp	Phe 220	Pro	Thr	Thr	Arg
Ser 225	Asp	Gly	Asp	Phe	Leu 230	His	Ser	Thr	Asn	Gly 235	Asn	Lys	Glu	Lys	Leu 240
Phe	Pro	His	Val	Thr 245	Pro	Lys	Gly	Ile	Asn 250	Gly	Ile	Asp	Phe	Lys 255	Gly
Glu	Ala	Ile	Thr 260	Phe	Lys	Ala	Thr	Thr 265	Ala	Gly	Ile	Leu	Ala 270	Thr	Leu
Ser	His	Cys 275	Ile	Glu	Leu	Met	Val 280	Lys	Arg	Glu	Asp	Ser 285	Trp	Gln	Lys
Arg	Leu 290	Asp	Lys	Glu	Thr	Glu 295	Lys	Lys	Arg	Arg	Thr 300	Glu	Glu	Ala	Tyr
Lys 305	Asn	Ala	Met	Thr	Glu 310	Leu	Lys	Lys	Lys	Ser 315	His	Phe	Gly	Gly	Pro 320
Asp	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Gly 325	Pro	Asn	Ser	Leu	Ile 330	Asn	Glu	Glu	Glu	Phe 335	Phe
Asp	Ala	Val	Glu 340	Ala	Ala	Leu	Asp	Arg 345	Gln	Asp	Lys	Ile	Glu 350	Glu	Gln
Ser	Gln	Ser 355	Glu	Lys	Val	Arg	Leu 360	His	Trp	Pro	Thr	Ser 365	Leu	Pro	Ser
Gly	Asp 370	Ala	Phe	Ser	Ser	Val 375	Gly	Thr	His	Arg	Phe 380	Val	Gln	Lys	Pro
Tyr 385	Ser	Arg	Ser	Ser	Ser 390	Met	Ser	Ser	Ile	Asp 395	Leu	Val	Ser	Ala	Ser 400
Asp	Asp	Val	His	Arg 405	Phe	Ser	Ser	Gln	Val 410	Glu	Glu	Met	Val	Gln 415	Asn
His	Met	Thr	Tyr 420	Ser	Leu	Gln	Asp	Val 425	Gly	Gly	Asp	Ala	Asn 430	Trp	Gln
Leu	Val	Val 435	Glu	Glu	Gly	Glu	Met 440	Lys	Val	Tyr	Arg	Arg 445	Glu	Val	Glu
Glu	Asn 450		Ile	Val	Leu	Asp 455	Pro	Leu	Lys	Ala	Thr 460	His	Ala	Val	Lys
Gly 465		Thr	Gly	His	Glu 470	Val	Cys	Asn	Tyr	Phe 475	Trp	Asn	Val	Asp	Val 480
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Sér Val Asp His Asp Ser Ala Pro Leu Asn Asn Arg Cys Val Arg Ala 545 550 555 560

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Arg Ser Pro
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Thr Arg Gly Phe Val Phe Thr Arg His Ser Gln Thr Thr Ala Ile Pro
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tca tqt cca qaq qqq aca qtg cca ctc tac agt ggg ttt tct ttt ctt
Ser Cys Pro Glu Gly Thr Val Pro Leu Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ser Phe Leu
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Phe Val Gln Gly Asn Gln Arg Ala His Gly Gln Asp Leu Gly Thr Leu
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qqc agc tgc ctg cag cga ttt acc aca atg cca ttc tta ttc tgc aat
Gly Ser Cys Leu Gln Arg Phe Thr Thr Met Pro Phe Leu Phe Cys Asn
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65
qtc aat gat gta tgt aat ttt gca tct cga aat gat tat tca tac tgg
Val Asn Asp Val Cys Asn Phe Ala Ser Arg Asn Asp Tyr Ser Tyr Trp
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ctg tca aca cca gct ctg atg cca atg aac atg gct ccc att act ggc
Leu Ser Thr Pro Ala Leu Met Pro Met Asn Met Ala Pro Ile Thr Gly
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gcg Ala	atc Ile 130	gcc Ala	ata Ile	gcc Ala	gtt Val	cac His 135	agc Ser	caa Gln	acc Thr	act Thr	gac Asp 140	att Ile	cct Pro	cca Pro	tgt Cys	432
cct Pro 145	cac His	ggc Gly	tgg Trp	att Ile	tct Ser 150	ctc Leu	tgg Trp	aaa Lys	gga Gly	ttt Phe 155	tca Ser	ttc Phe	atc Ile	atg Met	aaa Lys 160	480
gcc Ala	tat Tyr	tcc Ser	atc Ile	aac Asn 165	tgt Cys	gaa Glu	agc Ser	tgg Trp	gga Gly 170	att Ile	aga Arg	aaa Lys	aat Asn	aat Asn 175	aag Lys	528
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gca Ala	gaa Glu	ctg Leu 195	cta Leu	ttt Phe	ttc Phe	atc Ile	cta Leu 200	aag Lys	aac Asn	aaa Lys	gta Val	atg Met 205	aca Thr	gaa Glu	cat His	624
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Gly 65		Cys	Leu	Gln	Arg 70		Thr	Thr	Met	Pro 75		Leu	Phe	Cys	Asn 80	
Val	Asn	Asp	Val	Cys 85		Phe	Ala	Ser	Arg 90		Asp	Tyr	Ser	Tyr 95	Trp	

Leu Ser Thr Pro Ala Leu Met Pro Met Asn Met Ala Pro Ile Thr Gly 105 110 100 Arg Ala Leu Glu Pro Tyr Ile Ser Arg Cys Thr Val Cys Glu Gly Pro 120 Ala Ile Ala Ile Ala Val His Ser Gln Thr Thr Asp Ile Pro Pro Cys 130 Pro His Gly Trp Ile Ser Leu Trp Lys Gly Phe Ser Phe Ile Met Lys 150 Ala Tyr Ser Ile Asn Cys Glu Ser Trp Gly Ile Arg Lys Asn Asn Lys 170 Ser Leu Ser Gly Val His Glu Glu Lys Thr Leu Lys Leu Lys Lys Thr 185 180 Ala Glu Leu Leu Phe Phe Ile Leu Lys Asn Lys Val Met Thr Glu His 200 Ala Val Ile 210 <210> 47 <211> 680 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: GPDIII <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(216) <400> 47 ggt ttg aaa gga aaa cgt gga gac agt gga tca cct gca acc tgg aca Gly Leu Lys Gly Lys Arg Gly Asp Ser Gly Ser Pro Ala Thr Trp Thr 5 acg aga ggc ttt gtc ttc acc cga cac agt caa acc aca gca att cct Thr Arg Gly Phe Val Phe Thr Arg His Ser Gln Thr Thr Ala Ile Pro tca tgt cca gag ggg aca gtg cca ctc tac agt ggg ttt tct ttt ctt Ser Cys Pro Glu Gly Thr Val Pro Leu Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ser Phe Leu 35 40 ttt gta caa gga aat caa cga gcc cac gga caa gac ctt gat gca ctg Phe Val Gln Gly Asn Gln Arg Ala His Gly Gln Asp Leu Asp Ala Leu ttt gtg aag gtc ctg cga tcg cca tagccgttca cagccaaacc actgacattc 246 Phe Val Lys Val Leu Arg Ser Pro

70 65 ctccatgtcc tcacggctgg atttctctct ggaaaggatt ttcattcatc atgttcacaa 306 gtgcaggttc tgagggcacc gggcaagcac tggcctcccc tggctcctgc ctggaagaat 366 tccgagccag cccatttcta gaatgtcatg gaagaggaac gtgcaactac tattcaaatt 426 cctacagttt ctggctggct tcattaaacc cagaaagaat gttcagaaag cctattccat 486 caactqtqaa aqctqqqqaa ttaqaaaaaa taataaqtcq ctgtcagqtq tgcatqaaga 546 aaagacactg aagctaaaaa agacagcaga actgctattt ttcatcctaa agaacaaagt 606 aatgacagaa catgctgtta tttaggtatt tttctttaac caaacaatat tgctccatga 666 680 tgacttagta caaa <210> 48 <211> 72 <212> PRT <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: GPDIII Gly Leu Lys Gly Lys Arg Gly Asp Ser Gly Ser Pro Ala Thr Trp Thr Thr Arg Gly Phe Val Phe Thr Arg His Ser Gln Thr Thr Ala Ile Pro Ser Cys Pro Glu Gly Thr Val Pro Leu Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ser Phe Leu 35 Phe Val Gln Gly Asn Gln Arg Ala His Gly Gln Asp Leu Asp Ala Leu Phe Val Lys Val Leu Arg Ser Pro <210> 49 <211> 392 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: GPDIII-IV-V <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(204)

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acg Thr	aga Arg	ggc Gly	ttt Phe 20	gtc Val	ttc Phe	acc Thr	cga Arg	cac His 25	agt Ser	caa Gln	acc Thr	aca Thr	gca Ala 30	att Ile	cct Pro	96
tca Ser	tgt Cys	cca Pro 35	gag Glu	G1 y ggg	aca Thr	gtg Val	cca Pro 40	ctc Leu	tac Tyr	agt Ser	ggg Gly	ttt Phe 45	tct Ser	ttt Phe	ctt Leu	144
ttt Phe	gta Val 50	caa Gln	gga Gly	aat Asn	caa Gln	cga Arg 55	gcc Ala	cac His	gga Gly	caa Gln	gac Asp 60	ctt Leu	gaa Glu	agc Ser	cta Leu	192
			ctg Leu	tgaa	aagct	egg (	ggaat	taga	aa aa	aata	aataa	gto	egeto	gtca		244
ggt	gtgca	atg a	aagaa	aaaga	ac ac	ctgaa	agcta	a aaa	aaaga	acag	caga	acto	gct a	attt	tcatc	304
cta	aagaa	aca a	aagta	aatg	ac a	gaaca	atgci	t gti	tatti	agg	tati	ttt	ctt t	caaco	aaaca	364
ata	ttgc1	tcc (	atga	tgac	tt ag	gtaca	aaa									392
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Thr	Arg	Gly	Phe 20	Val	Phe	Thr	Arg	His 25	Ser	Gln	Thr	Thr	Ala 30	Ile	Pro	
Ser	Cys	Pro 35	Glu	Gly	Thr	Val	Pro 40	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Gly	Phe 45	Ser	Phe	Leu	
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acg aga ggc ttt gtc ttc acc cga cac agt caa acc aca gca att cct
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Thr Arg Gly Phe Val Phe Thr Arg His Ser Gln Thr Thr Ala Ile Pro
tca tgt cca gag ggg aca gtg cca ctc tac agt ggg ttt tct ttt ctt
                                                                   144
Ser Cys Pro Glu Gly Thr Val Pro Leu Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ser Phe Leu
         35
ttt gta caa gga aat caa cga gcc cac gga caa gac ctt gat gca ctg
                                                                   192
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Phe Val Lys Val Leu Arg Ser Pro
ctccatgtcc tcacggctgg atttctctct ggaaaggatt ttcattcatc atgaaagcct 306
attocatcaa ctgtgaaagc tggggaatta gaaaaaataa taagtcgctg tcaggtgtgc 366
atgaagaaaa gacactgaag ctaaaaaaga cagcagaact gctattttc atcctaaaga 426
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Ser Cys Pro Glu Gly Thr Val Pro Leu Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ser Phe Leu
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gga Gly	ttc Phe	aag Lys	gga Gly 170	gtc Val	gat Asp	gcc Ala	cag Gln	ggc Gly 175	acg Thr	ctt Leu	tcc Ser	aaa Lys	att Ile 180	ttt Phe	aag Lys	582
ctg Leu	gga Gly	gga Gly 185	aga Arg	gat Asp	agt Ser	cgc Arg	tct Ser 190	gga Gly	tca Ser	ccc Pro	atg Met	gct Ala 195	aga Arg	cgc Arg		627
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His	Arg	Asp 35	Thr	Gly	Ile	Leu	Asp 40	Ser	Ile	Gly	Arg	Phe 45	Phe	Gly	Gly	
Asp	Arg 50	Gly	Ala	Pro	Lys	Arg 55	Gly	Ser	Gly	Lys	Val 60	Pro	Trp	Leu	Lys	
Pro 65	Gly	Arg	Ser	Pro	Leu 70	Pro	Ser	His	Ala	Arg 75	Ser	Gln	Pro	Gly	Leu 80	
Cys	Asn	Met	Tyr	Lys 85		Ser	His	His	Pro 90		Arg	Thr	Ala	His 95	Tyr	
Gly	Ser	Leu	Pro	Gln	Lys	Ser	His	Gly 105	Arg	Thr	Gln	Asp	Glu 110		Pro	
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Tyr	Lys	Ser	Ala	His 165	Lys	Gly	Phe	Lys	Gly 170	Val	Asp	Ala	Gln	Gly 175	Thr	
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12

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Thr Arg Gly Phe Val Phe Thr Arg His Ser Gln Thr Thr Ala Ile Pro
tca tgt cca gag ggg aca gtg cca ctc tac agt ggg ttt tct ttt ctt
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Ser Cys Pro Glu Gly Thr Val Pro Leu Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ser Phe Leu
                              40
         35
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Phe Val Gln Gly Asn Gln Arg Ala His Gly Gln Asp Leu Gly Thr Leu
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Gly Ser Cys Leu Gln Arg Phe Thr Thr Met Pro Phe Leu Phe Cys Asn
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                      70
 65
gtc aat gat gta tgt aat ttt gca tct cga aat gat tat tca tac tgg
                                                                    288
Val Asn Asp Val Cys Asn Phe Ala Ser Arg Asn Asp Tyr Ser Tyr Trp
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                  85
ctg tca aca cca gct ctg atg cca atg aac atg gct ccc att act ggc
Leu Ser Thr Pro Ala Leu Met Pro Met Asn Met Ala Pro Ile Thr Gly
            100
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gco	atc Ile 130	gcc Ala	ata Ile	gcc Ala	gtt Val	cac His 135	agc Ser	caa Gln	acc Thr	act Thr	gac Asp 140	att Ile	cct Pro	cca Pro	tgt Cys	432
pro	cac His	ggc Gly	tgg Trp	att Ile	tct Ser 150	ctc Leu	tgg Trp	aaa Lys	gga Gly	ttt Phe 155	tca Ser	ttc Phe	atc Ile	atg Met	ttc Phe 160	480
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tca Sea	tta Leu 210	aac Asn	cca Pro	gaa Glu	aga Arg	atg Met 215	ttc Phe	aga Arg	aag Lys	cct Pro	att Ile 220	cca Pro	tca Ser	act Thr	gtg Val	672
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Se	r Cys	Pro 35		Gly	Thr	Val	Pro		Tyr	Ser	Gly	Phe 45		Phe	Leu	
Ph	e Val	Glr	ı Gly	/ Asn	Glr	Arg	Ala	His	Gly	Gln	Asp	Leu	Gly	Thr	Leu	

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tca Ser	tgt Cys	cca Pro 35	gag Glu	Gly	aca Thr	gtg Val	cca Pro 40	ctc Leu	tac Tyr	agt Ser	ggg Gly	ttt Phe 45	tct Ser	ttt Phe	ctt Leu	144
ttt Phe	gta Val 50	caa Gln	gga Gly	aat Asn	caa Gln	cga Arg 55	gcc Ala	cac His	gga Gly	caa Gln	gac Asp 60	ctt Leu	gga Gly	act Thr	ctt Leu	192
ggc Gly 65	agc Ser	tgc Cys	ctg Leu	cag Gln	cga Arg 70	ttt Phe	acc Thr	aca Thr	atg Met	cca Pro 75	ttc Phe	tta Leu	ttc Phe	tgc Cys	aat Asn 80	240
gtc Val	aat Asn	gat Asp	gta Val	tgt Cys 85	aat Asn	ttt Phe	gca Ala	tct Ser	cga Arg 90	aat Asn	gat Asp	tat Tyr	tca Ser	tac Tyr 95	tgg Trp	288
ctg Leu	tca Ser	aca Thr	cca Pro 100	gct Ala	ctg Leu	atg Met	cca Pro	atg Met 105	aac Asn	atg Met	gct Ala	ccc Pro	att Ile 110	act Thr	ggc Gly	336
aga Arg	gcc Ala	ctt Leu 115	gag Glu	cct Pro	tat Tyr	ata Ile	agc Ser 120	aga Arg	tgc Cys	act Thr	gtt Val	tgt Cys 125	gaa Glu	ggt Gly	cct Pro	384
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cct Pro 145	cac His	ggc Gly	tgg Trp	att Ile	tct Ser 150	ctc Leu	tgg Trp	aaa Lys	gga Gly	ttt Phe 155	tca Ser	ttc Phe	atc Ile	atg Met	ttc Phe 160	480
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720

735

aaa qct ggg gaa tta gaa aaa ata ata agt cgc tgt cag gtg tgc atg Lys Ala Gly Glu Leu Glu Lys Ile Ile Ser Arg Cys Gln Val Cys Met . 230 235 aag aaa aga cac tga Lys Lys Arg His <210> 68 <211> 244 <212> PRT <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: recombinant ' variant of human alpha III type IV collagen NC1 domain <400> 68 Gly Leu Lys Gly Lys Arg Gly Asp Ala Gly Ser Pro Ala Thr Trp Thr Thr Arg Gly Phe Val Phe Thr Arg His Ser Gln Thr Thr Ala Ile Pro Ser Cys Pro Glu Gly Thr Val Pro Leu Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ser Phe Leu Phe Val Gln Gly Asn Gln Arg Ala His Gly Gln Asp Leu Gly Thr Leu Gly Ser Cys Leu Gln Arg Phe Thr Thr Met Pro Phe Leu Phe Cys Asn Val Asn Asp Val Cys Asn Phe Ala Ser Arg Asn Asp Tyr Ser Tyr Trp Leu Ser Thr Pro Ala Leu Met Pro Met Asn Met Ala Pro Ile Thr Gly 100 Arg Ala Leu Glu Pro Tyr Ile Ser Arg Cys Thr Val Cys Glu Gly Pro 120 Ala Ile Ala Ile Ala Val His Ser Gln Thr Thr Asp Ile Pro Pro Cys 140 135 Pro His Gly Trp Ile Ser Leu Trp Lys Gly Phe Ser Phe Ile Met Phe 150 Thr Ser Ala Gly Ser Glu Gly Thr Gly Gln Ala Leu Ala Ser Pro Gly Ser Cys Leu Glu Glu Phe Arg Ala Ser Pro Phe Leu Glu Cys His Gly Arg Gly Thr Cys Asn Tyr Tyr Ser Asn Ser Tyr Ser Phe Trp Leu Ala 200

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Phe Val Gln Gly Asn Gln Arg Ala His Gly Gln Asp Leu Gly Thr Leu 50 55 60

Gly Ser Cys Leu Gln Arg Phe Thr Thr Met Pro Phe Leu Phe Cys Asn 65 70 75 80

Val Asn Asp Val Cys Asn Phe Ala Ser Arg Asn Asp Tyr Ser Tyr Trp 85 90 95

Leu Ser Thr Pro Ala Leu Met Pro Met Asn Met Ala Pro Ile Thr Gly
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Pro His Gly Trp Ile Ser Leu Trp Lys Gly Phe Ser Phe Ile Met Phe 145 150 155 160

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